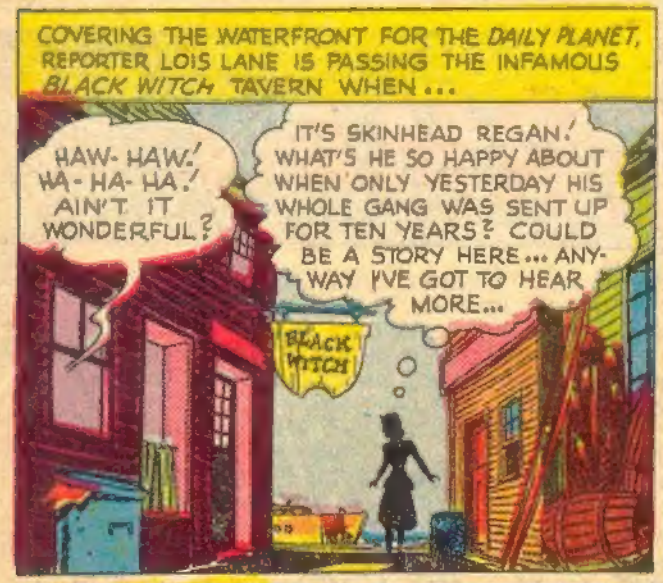
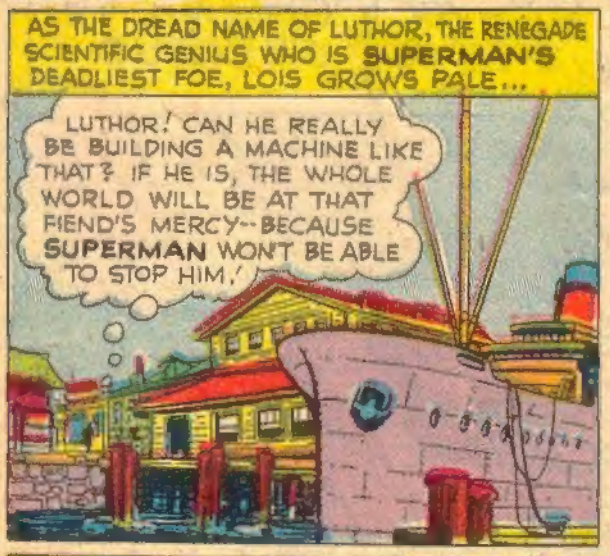
RIDE THRILLING WESTERN TRAILS WITH THE VIGILANTE
52 BIG PAGES
10c
ACTION COMICS
NO.156 MAY
In this issue:
THE ASTOUNDING STORY OF "THE GIRL OF STEEL!"
LUTHOR!... THIS IS A JOB FOR SUPERMAN!
NO! THIS IS A JOB FOR SUPERWOMAN!

SUPERMAN
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.
SO--YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE POWERS LIKE SUPERMAN, WOULD YOU? YOU'D LIKE TO BE ABLE TO DO ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS HE CAN DO? BUT WAIT! DID YOU KNOW THAT SUPER-POWER ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH TO PRODUCE A SUPERMAN? HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF THE DIFFICULTIES AND DANGERS INVOLVED IN THE POSSESSION OF SUCH POWERS? THEN READ HOW LUTHOR, THE SCIENTIFIC ARCH-WIZARD OF CRIME, BRINGS TO TERRIBLE REALITY THE FREQUENTY EXPRESSED WISH OF MILLIONS IN THIS REVEALING STORY IN WHICH SUPERMAN MEETS...
"THE Girl of STEEL!"


COVERING THE WATERFRONT FOR THE DAILY PLANET, REPORTER LOIS LANE IS PASSING THE INFAMOUS BLACK WITCH TAVERN WHEN ...
HAW-HAW! HA-HA-HA! AIN'T IT WONDERFUL?
IT'S SKINHEAD REGAN! WHAT'S HE SO HAPPY ABOUT WHEN ONLY YESTERDAY HIS WHOLE GANG WAS SENT UP FOR TEN YEARS? COULD BE A STORY HERE... ANYWAY I'VE GOT TO HEAR MORE...
BLACK WITCH

I GOT IT FROM THE BROTHER OF A GUY WORKING IN THE LABORATORY. THIS MACHINE'LL MAKE ANYONE AS POWERFUL AS SUPERMAN! I'D NEVER BELIEVE IT EXCEPT THAT THE INVENTOR IS -- LUTHOR!
OH-- (GASP) --OH!

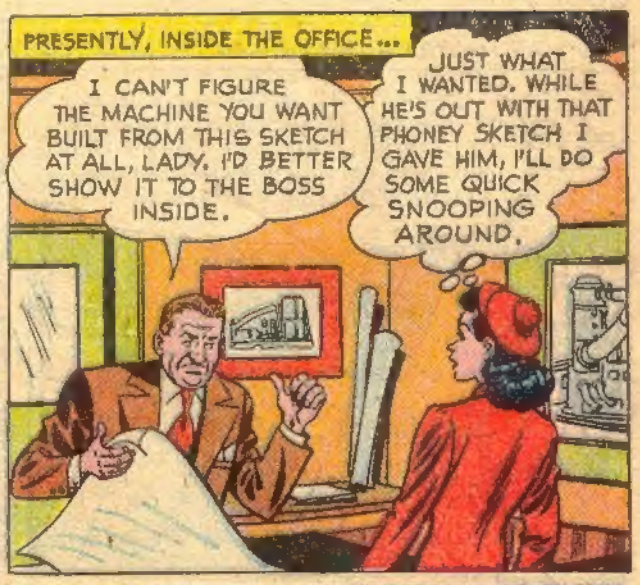

AS THE DREAD NAME OF LUTHOR, THE RENEGADE SCIENTIFIC GENIUS WHO IS SUPERMAN'S DEADLIEST FOE, LOIS GROWS PALE...
LUTHOR! CAN HE REALLY BE BUILDING A MACHINE LIKE THAT? IF HE IS, THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE AT THAT FIEND'S MERCY--BECAUSE SUPERMAN WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP HIM!

WHAT'LL I DO? I CAN'T WARN SUPERMAN. HE'S AWAY ON A GOVERNMENT MISSION--AND THE POLICE CAN'T ACT WITHOUT PROOF OF SOMETHING ILLEGAL BEHIND IT. WHICH LEAVES IT TO ME TO CHECK ON LUTHOR--DANGEROUS AS THAT MIGHT BE.

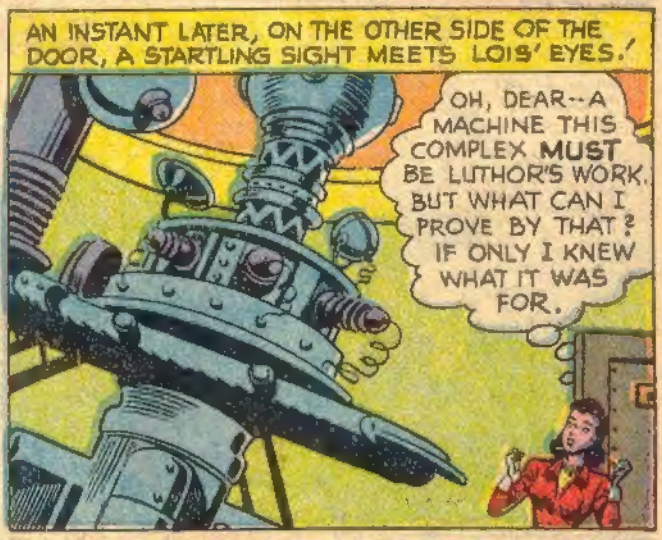
MEANWHILE, MANY MILES FROM METROPOLIS...
THIS SPECIAL DRILL I BUILT CERTAINLY SPEEDS THE TASK OF HOLLOWING OUT THIS MOUNTAIN FOR THOSE TOP-SECRET RESEARCH PLANTS THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO BUILD.
2

WHICH MEANS I'LL BE THROUGH MUCH SOONER THAN I'D EXPECTED. BY THIS AFTERNOON, AT THE LATEST. SO I WON'T HAVE TO KEEP STALLING THE DAILY PLANET THAT CLARK KENT IS HOME WITH A BAD COLD.

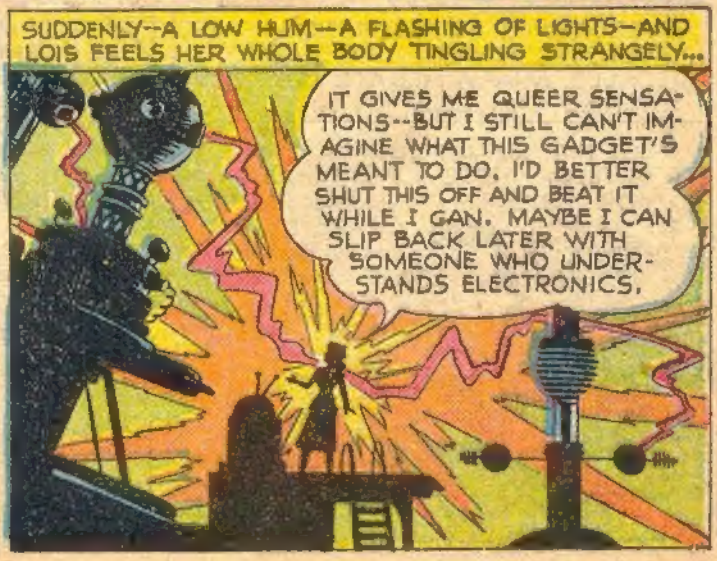
IF ONLY LOIS COULD KNOW THAT SUPERMAN WILL RETURN SOON, AS SHE UNDERTAKES HER PERILOUS INVESTIGATION!
STANDARD ELECTRONICS PRODUCTS
THE PAROLE BOARD HAS LUTHOR LISTED AS WORKING HERE. BUT IF I KNOW HIM, HE PROBABLY OWNS THE COMPANY SECRETLY AND USES IT AS A FRONT FOR WHATEVER NEW CRIMES THAT BRILLIANT AND TWISTED MIND OF HIS IS PLANNING.


PRESENTLY, INSIDE THE OFFICE...
I CAN'T FIGURE THE MACHINE YOU WANT BUILT FROM THIS SKETCH AT ALL, LADY. I'D BETTER SHOW IT TO THE BOSS INSIDE.
JUST WHAT I WANTED. WHILE HE'S OUT WITH THAT PHONEY SKETCH I GAVE HIM, I'LL DO SOME QUICK SNOOPING AROUND.

SO--AS SHE'S LEFT ALONE FOR A MOMENT...
NO ADMITTANCE
MAYBE LUTHOR'S PRIVATE LABORATORY IS BEHIND THIS HEAVY DOOR. NO ADMITTANCE, IT SAYS. WELL--I CAN'T READ.


AN INSTANT LATER, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR, A STARTLING SIGHT MEETS LOIS' EYES.!
OH, DEAR--A MACHINE THIS COMPLEX MUST BE LUTHOR'S WORK. BUT WHAT CAN I PROVE BY THAT? IF ONLY I KNEW WHAT IT WAS FOR.

WELL--THERE'S NOTHING LIKE FINDING OUT. LET'S SEE WHAT THIS SWITCH IS SUPPOSED TO DO...
3

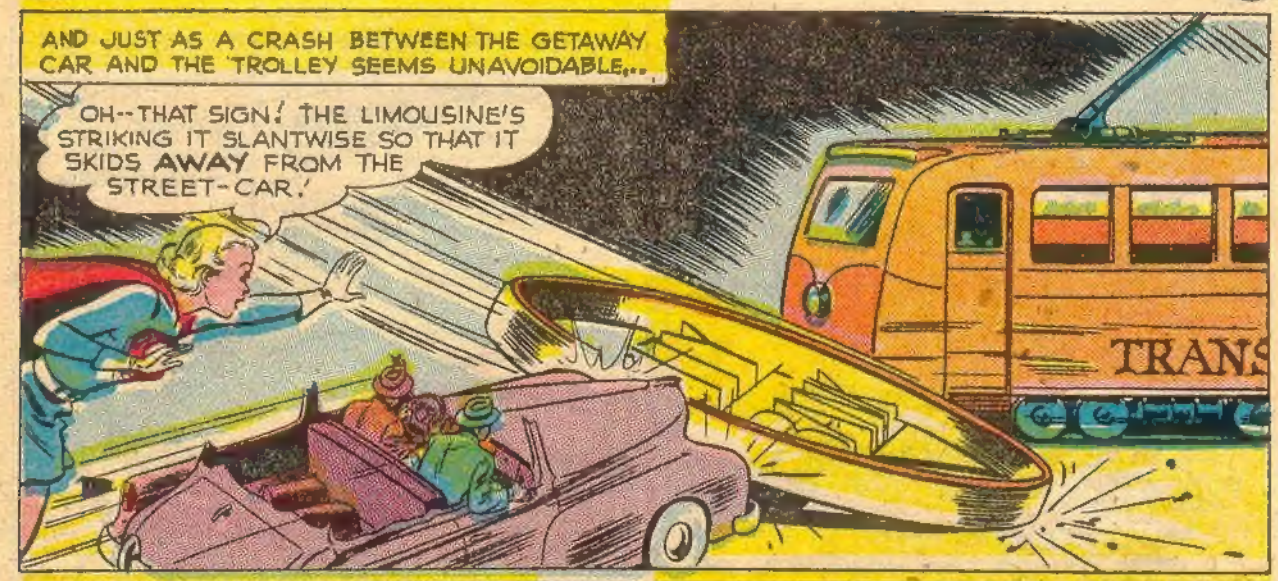

SUDDENLY--A LOW HUM--A FLASHING OF LIGHTS--AND LOIS FEELS HER WHOLE BODY TINGLING STRANGELY...
IT GIVES ME QUEER SENSATIONS--BUT I STILL CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT THIS GADGET'S MEANT TO DO. I'D BETTER SHUT THIS OFF AND BEAT IT WHILE I CAN. MAYBE I CAN SLIP BACK LATER WITH SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS ELECTRONICS.

AS LOIS HASTILY RUSHES FROM THE LABORATORY...
UH-UH! THAT DOOR MUST'VE BEEN LOOSE ON ITS HINGES. I HARDLY TOUCHED IT. BUT NOW--I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE FAST BEFORE LUTHOR HIMSELF SPOTS ME.
ONCE ON THE STREET, LOIS MAKES A DASH FOR A STREET-CAR ALREADY STARTING TO MOVE AWAY AND...
HAVE TO CATCH THAT STREET-CAR BEFORE--ULP! WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?
OOPS! HEY--MOTORMAN! WHAT'S THE IDEA THROWING THE CAR INTO REVERSE?
COME ON--MAKE UP YOUR MIND! OKAY--SO DON'T GET ON!
MAYBE I'M CRAZY, BUT I'M CERTAIN I PULLED THAT CAR BACK ALL BY MYSELF! AND THAT HEAVY LABORATORY DOOR--COULD I HAVE DONE THAT, TOO? GOOD GRACIOUS!
THAT MUST'VE BEEN THE MACHINE THAT GIVES SUPER-POWER TO ANYONE! AND I--I'VE GOT SUPER-POWERS! AT LEAST I THINK SO. BUT TO MAKE SURE--THIS TRUCK--WHY--WHY--I CAN LIFT IT LIKE A FEATHER!
STAGGERED AT THE REALIZATION OF HER ASTOUNDING POWERS, LOIS SLOWLY RECALLS WHAT A MENACE LUTHOR'S MACHINE CAN BE...
BUT THAT MEANS LUTHOR CAN DEVELOP THOSE SUPER-POWERS FOR HIMSELF--AND FOR THE ENTIRE UNDERWORLD! OH--OH--IF ONLY SUPERMAN COULD BE WARNED! BUT-- GOOD HEAVENS--
WHY DO I NEED SUPERMAN? I CAN SLIP BACK AND SMASH THAT MACHINE MYSELF--RIGHT NOW! AND--OOPS! THAT CAR! WHY--WHY--I'M FLYING! IT'S LIKE A DREAM! WELL--HERE I GO--BACK TO LUTHOR'S LABORATORY! WHEEE!
4

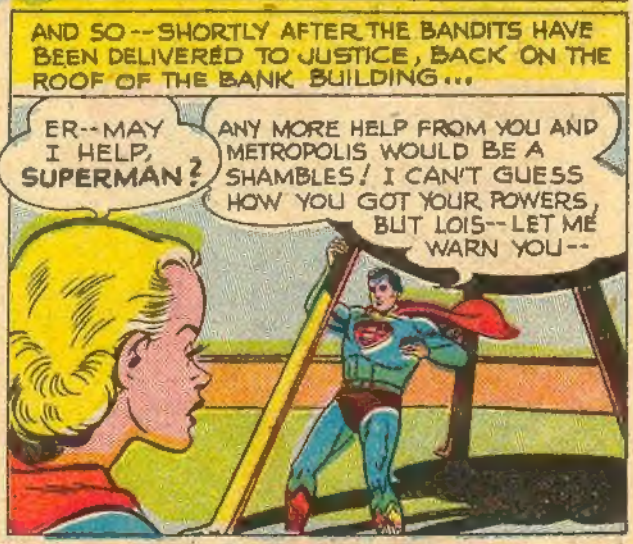
SHORTLY AFTER, AS LOIS PEERS INTO THE LABORATORY HOUSING LUTHOR'S AMAZING INVENTION...
IDIOT! THE MACHINE'S RUINED BEFORE I COULD TEST IT! WHOEVER THAT GIRL WAS, SHE SLIPPED IN HERE, SET THE SWITCH AND USED UP THE PRECIOUS POWER-GIVING VIVANIUM THE MECHANISM OPERATES ON! WHAT'S MORE--
--THIS RIPPED DOOR PROVES SHE GOT THE POWERS! IT'LL TAKE MONTHS TO BUILD ANOTHER VIVANIUM MACHINE. BUT THAT GIRL--IF I ONLY KNEW WHO SHE IS!!
HM--SINCE LUTHOR'S STYMIED FOR A WHILE, IT MIGHT BE SMART TO HIDE MY IDENTITY BEFORE RAIDING THIS PLACE TO PREVENT HIS BUILDING ANOTHER MACHINE!
AND SO--SOME HOURS LATER, HAVING ALSO DECIDED TO FINISH UP A NEWS STORY BEFORE RETURNING TO LUTHOR'S, WE FIND LOIS IN THE DAILY PLANET OFFICE AS CLARK ARRIVES...
MY COLD CLEARED UP SO FAST, I THOUGHT I'D REPORT TO WORK, CHIEF.
WELL, CLARK--YOU'RE JUST IN TIME TO SEE THAT NEW GIANT PRESS WE'RE HAVING INSTALLED INSIDE AND--UH-UH!
WATCH OUT! STAND BACK!
CLEAR THE FLOOR! THE SWITCH IS STUCK AND THAT MAIN FLYWHEEL AIN'T TIGHT! ALL FIVE TONS OF IT MIGHT BUST LOOSE AND CRASH RIGHT THROUGH THE PARTITIONS!
OH-OH--IT MIGHT KILL SOMEONE! HM--WHERE TO HIDE SO I CAN SWITCH TO SUPERMAN?
HM--WHERE TO HIDE SO I CAN SWITCH TO SUPERWOMAN?
AN INSTANT AFTER EVERYONE HAS TAKEN COVER--THE WHEEL SMASHES FREE JUST AS A RUSH OF AIR AND A BLUR OF COLOR CONVERGE ON IT AND SOLIDIFY INTO...
I'VE GOT IT--HUH? WHO--WHO ARE YOU?
WHY, SUPERMAN! YOU WEREN'T EXPECTED IN TOWN TILL TOMORROW! BUT, ANYWAY, IT'S NICE MEETING YOU!
AS THE PAIR SETS THE HEAVY FLYWHEEL DOWN, THE ASTONISHED STAFF MEMBERS EMERGE FROM COVER!
IS THIS A JOKE? WH-WHO ARE YOU?
AS FAR AS THE WORLD KNOWS--I'M SUPERWOMAN! BUT YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, KNOW HOW VITAL IT IS FOR FOLKS LIKE US TO KEEP OUR REAL IDENTITY SECRET!
5

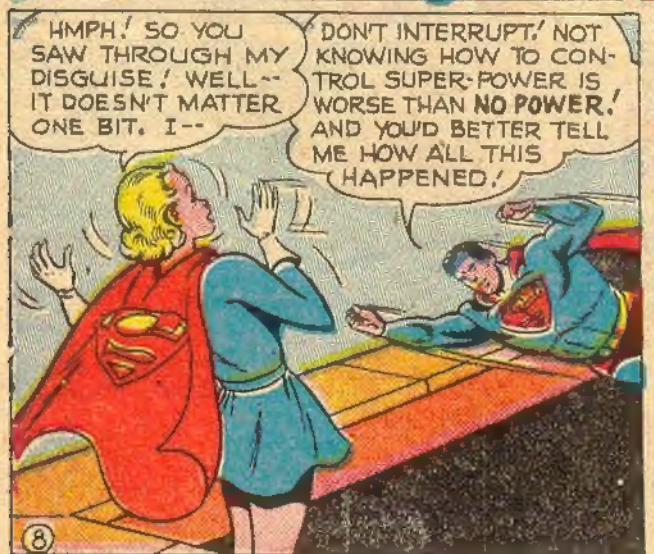
ANYWAY--SO LONG, SUPERMAN.' I'VE WORK TO DO. BUT-- I'LL SEE YOU AROUND.'
IT--IT COULDN'T BE.' IT'S A DREAM.'
SHE--SHE FLIES.' A GENUINE SUPER-WOMAN.' WOW.' WHAT A STORY.'
THAT SURE TOOK THEIR BREATHS AWAY.' TEE-HEE.' WOULD THEY BE ASTONISHED IF THEY KNEW THAT SUPERWOMAN WAS LOIS LANE WITH A BLONDE WIG AND A VERY CHIC COSTUME INDEED. ANYWAY-- I'VE GOT SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS RIGHT NOW WITH LUTHOR.'
I WAS SO BOWLED OVER, I DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT HER.' BUT I'LL DO THAT RIGHT NOW.'
MAYBE SHE'S FROM KRYPTON, TOO, SUPERMAN. WHY--SHE MIGHT EVEN BE A RELATIVE.'
SCUDDING SWIFTLY AFTER HIS FEMININE COUNTERPART, SUPERMAN MAKES A STARTLING DISCOVERY...
GREAT SCOTT.' THIS GETS CRAZIER AND CRAZIER.' IT'S LOIS--IN A BLONDE WIG.' SHE COULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED TO FOOL ME.'
LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR SUPERWOMAN DOWN BELOW-- BEFORE I GET TO LUTHOR'S.'
THEN, WITH THE MAN OF STEEL WATCHING, THE GIRL OF STEEL ABRUPTLY GOES INTO ACTION TO FOIL A DARING HOLD-UP IN THE STREET BELOW.'
IF ONLY SUPERMAN COULD SEE ME NOW.'
THIS I'VE GOT TO SEE.'
CITY BANK
BUT AS SUPERWOMAN DIVES, SHE OVERLEAPS THE MARK AND...
OOPS.' I--I MISJUDGED THE STRENGTH OF MY LEAP.'
OW.' SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE SKILLED CONTROL NECESSARY TO DIRECT HER STRENGTH.' AND THAT SIGN'S CRASHING RIGHT DOWN TOWARD THE STREET.'
6

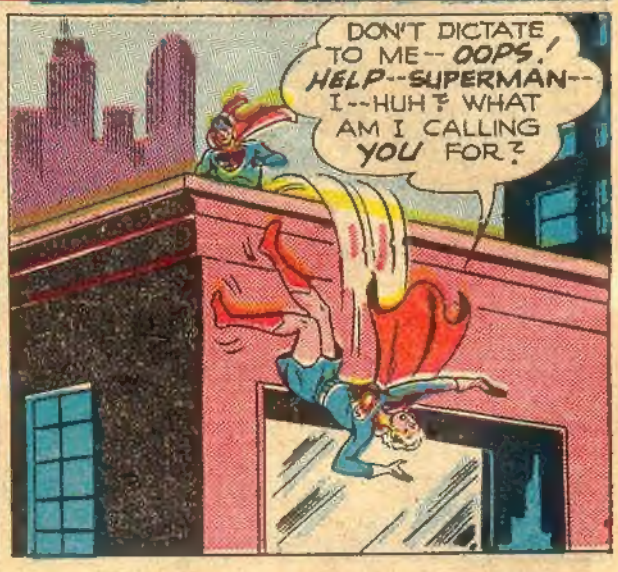
SUPERMAN! GOSH--THANKS! LOOSENING THAT SIGN WAS CLUMSY OF ME, BUT WHILE YOU GRAB IT--I'LL STOP THEM!
FIRST--A DAME! THEN--IT'S HIM! THEN IT'S BOTH OF 'EM! STEP ON IT, PAL!
BUT AS SUPERWOMAN MAKES A GRAB FOR THE FLEEING GETAWAY CAR...
I'LL JUST GRAB THE ENTIRE CAR AND--OOPS! I--I SNATCHED AT IT TOO SUDDENLY!
Yow!
TO FREE HER HANDS AND AVERT A CRASH, SUPER-WOMAN TOSSES THE CAR ROOF ASIDE AND--
OH--I'LL NEED BOTH HANDS TO KEEP THE TERRIFIED DRIVER OF THAT GET-AWAY CAR FROM CRASHING INTO THAT TROLLEY!
WHILE SUPERMAN, BUSILY BRACING THE WEAKENED BANK SIGN, CATCHES A SPLIT-SECOND GLIMPSE OF AN IMPENDING TRIPLE DISASTER!
OW! THAT LIMOUSINE TOP IS ABOUT TO HIT THAT CONVERTIBLE--AND LOIS IS ABOUT TO STOP THAT STREET-CAR SO FAST, THE PASSENGERS WILL BE HURT! BUT IF I LET GO THIS SIGN TO HELP OUT, IT'LL CRASH OVER INTO THE STREET!
A THREE-WAY THREAT AND ONLY AN INSTANT FOR SUPERMAN TO ACT. RIPPING THE HUGE SIGN ENTIRELY FREE, HE HEAVES IT MIGHTILY AND--
A TWIST OF THE WRIST TO PUT A LITTLE ENGLISH ON THIS SIGN SO IT'LL DEFLECT THAT FALLING TOP FROM THE CONVERTIBLE IN THE COURSE OF ITS DOWNWARD SPIN TOWARD THAT CAREENING LIMOUSINE!

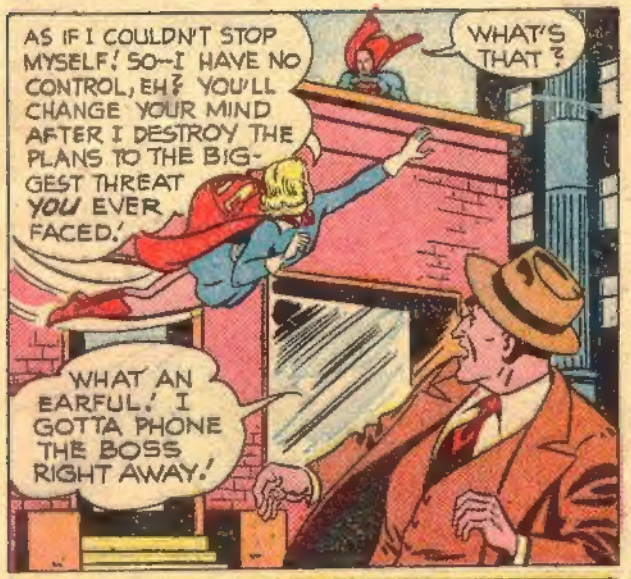

AND JUST AS A CRASH BETWEEN THE GETAWAY CAR AND THE TROLLEY SEEMS UNAVOIDABLE...
OH--THAT SIGN! THE LIMOUSINE'S STRIKING IT SLANTWISE SO THAT IT SKIDS AWAY FROM THE STREET-CAR!
TRANS

AND A SPLIT SECOND LATER, DOWN DIVES SUPERMAN!
FIRST--THE SIGN, BEFORE IT TOPPLES--AND THEN TO GRAB THE GETAWAY CAR--OR WHAT'S LEFT OF IT!

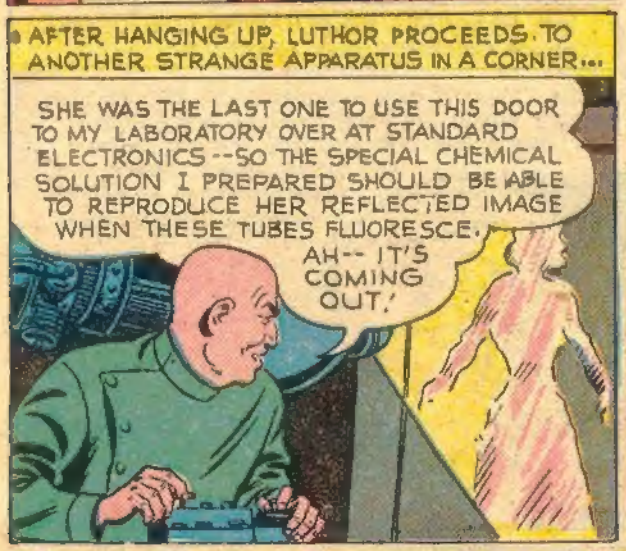

AND SO--SHORTLY AFTER THE BANDITS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO JUSTICE, BACK ON THE ROOF OF THE BANK BUILDING...
ER--MAY I HELP, SUPERMAN?
ANY MORE HELP FROM YOU AND METROPOLIS WOULD BE A SHAMBLES! I CAN'T GUESS HOW YOU GOT YOUR POWERS, BUT LOIS--LET ME WARN YOU--

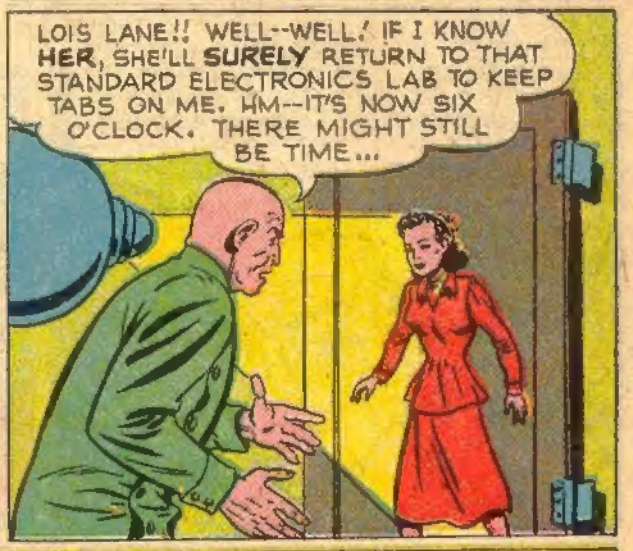

HMPH! SO YOU SAW THROUGH MY DISGUISE! WELL--IT DOESN'T MATTER ONE BIT. I--
DON'T INTERRUPT! NOT KNOWING HOW TO CONTROL SUPER-POWER IS WORSE THAN NO POWER! AND YOU'D BETTER TELL ME HOW ALL THIS HAPPENED!
8


DON'T DICTATE TO ME--OOPS! HELP--SUPERMAN--I--HUH? WHAT AM I CALLING YOU FOR?

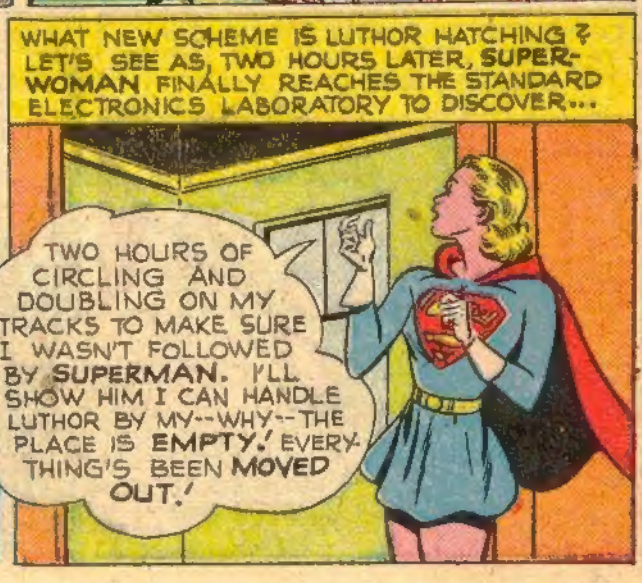

AS IF I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF! SO--I HAVE NO CONTROL, EH? YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR MIND AFTER I DESTROY THE PLANS TO THE BIGGEST THREAT YOU EVER FACED!
WHAT'S THAT?
WHAT AN EARFUL! I GOTTA PHONE THE BOSS RIGHT AWAY!

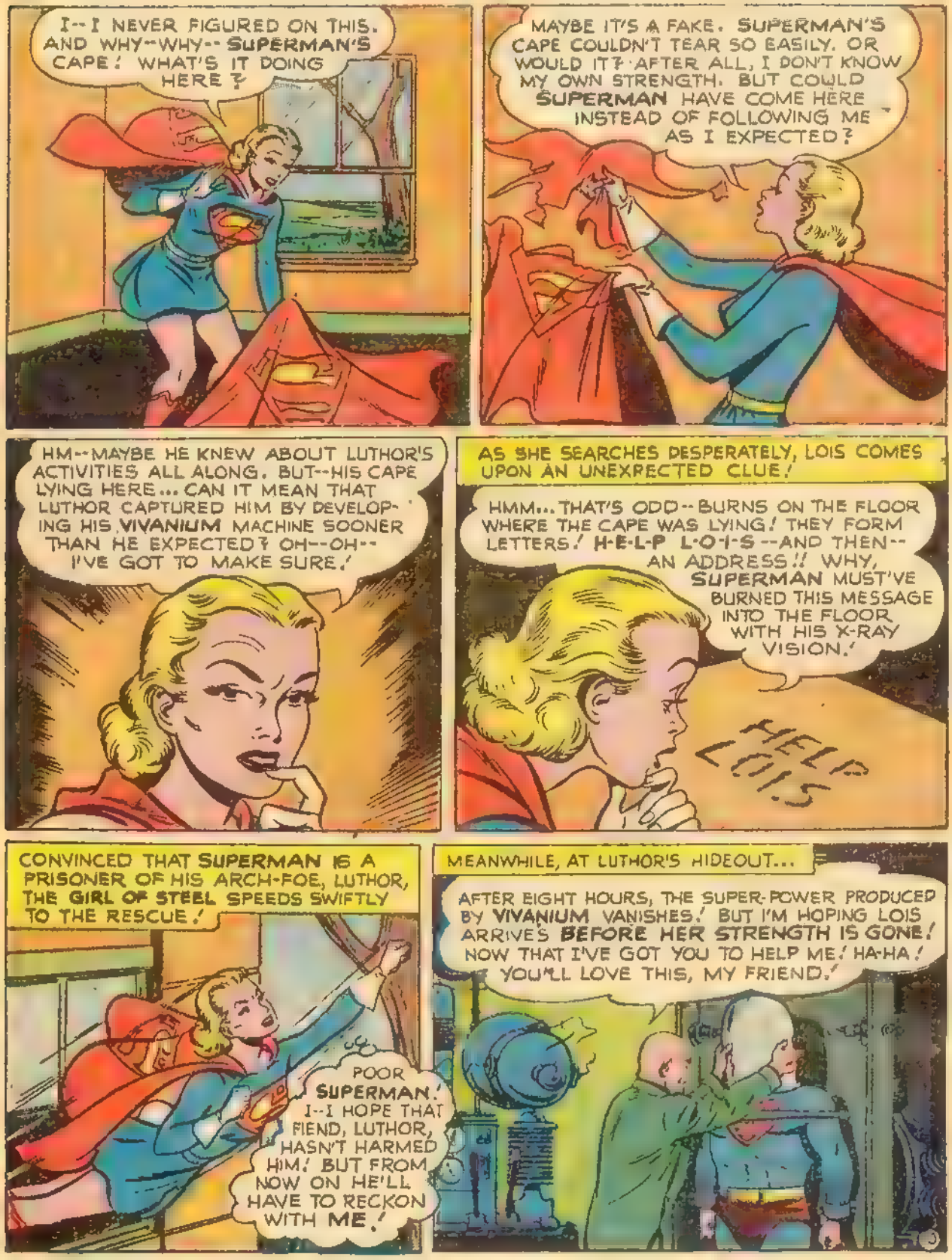
AND SO, SHORTLY AFTER, LUTHOR RECEIVES WORD FROM ONE OF THE MANY SCOUTS HE HAS SENT OUT TO GET NEWS OF THE VIVANIUM-CREATED SUPERWOMAN...
OUTSIDE THE BANK, EH? AND YOU SAY SHE WOULDN'T TELL SUPERMAN HOW SHE GOT HER POWERS? WELL--THAT MEANS HE WON'T BE A THREAT--NOT YET, ANYWAY. OKAY--THANKS.

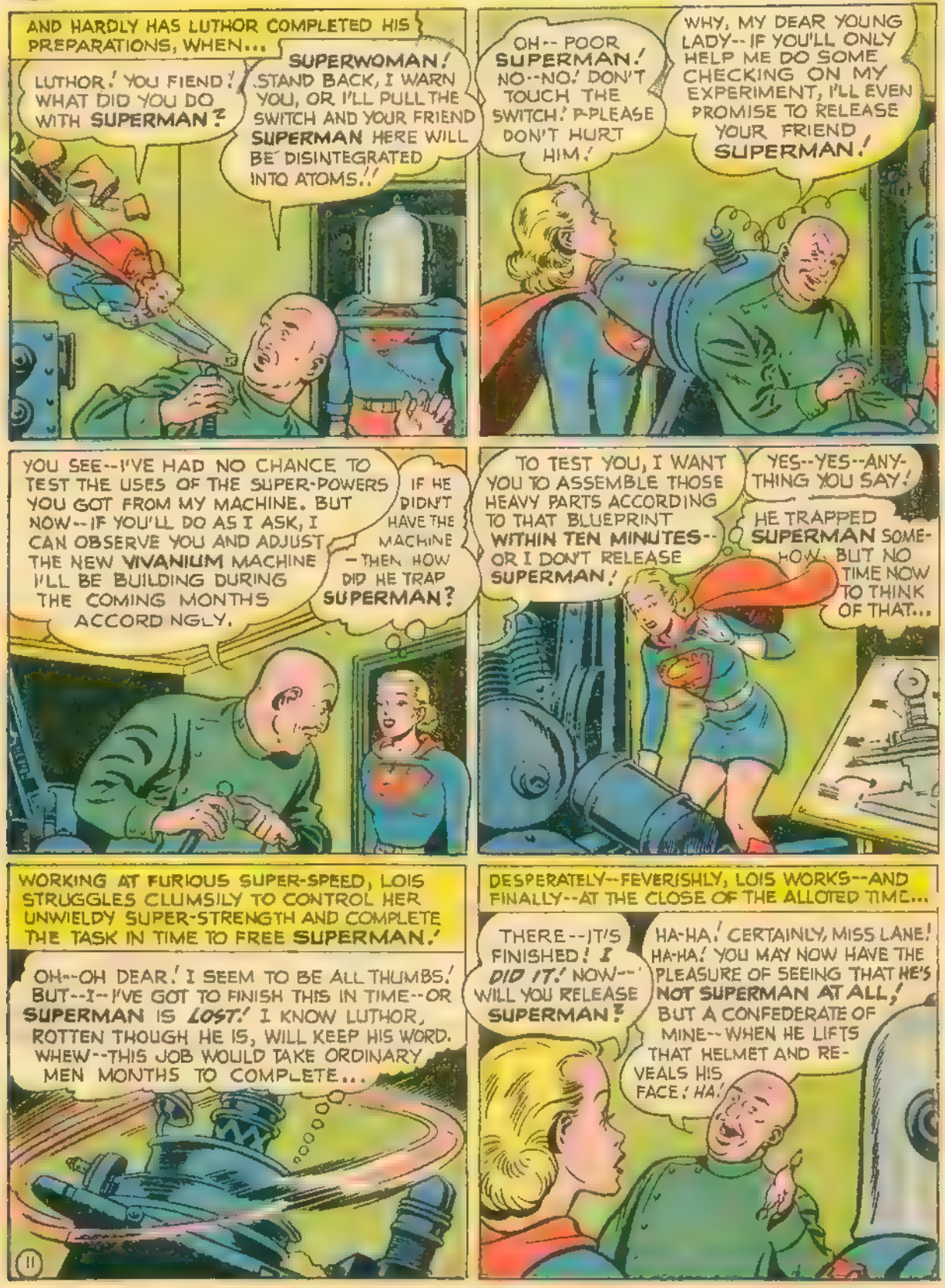

AFTER HANGING UP, LUTHOR PROCEEDS TO ANOTHER STRANGE APPARATUS IN A CORNER...
SHE WAS THE LAST ONE TO USE THIS DOOR TO MY LABORATORY OVER AT STANDARD ELECTRONICS--SO THE SPECIAL CHEMICAL SOLUTION I PREPARED SHOULD BE ABLE TO REPRODUCE HER REFLECTED IMAGE WHEN THESE TUBES FLUORESCE.
AH--IT'S COMING OUT!


LOIS LANE!! WELL--WELL! IF I KNOW HER, SHE'LL SURELY RETURN TO THAT STANDARD ELECTRONICS LAB TO KEEP TABS ON ME. HM--IT'S NOW SIX O'CLOCK. THERE MIGHT STILL BE TIME...

HELLO--STEPNEY? IT WAS REPORTER LOIS LANE! NOW--THERE'S ONE THING SHE COULDN'T KNOW ABOUT VIVANIUM THAT MIGHT SAVE EVERYTHING. BUT, YOU'LL HAVE TO ACT QUICKLY--AND HOPE WE'RE NOT ALREADY TOO LATE TO MAKE THIS PLAN WORK.. NOW LISTEN...
9


WHAT NEW SCHEME IS LUTHOR HATCHING? LET'S SEE AS, TWO HOURS LATER, SUPERWOMAN FINALLY REACHES THE STANDARD ELECTRONICS LABORATORY TO DISCOVER...
TWO HOURS OF CIRCLING AND DOUBLING ON MY TRACKS TO MAKE SURE I WASN'T FOLLOWED BY SUPERMAN. I'LL SHOW HIM I CAN HANDLE LUTHOR BY MY--WHY--THE PLACE IS EMPTY! EVERYTHING'S BEEN MOVED OUT!


I--I NEVER FIGURED ON THIS. AND WHY--WHY-- SUPERMAN'S CAPE! WHAT'S IT DOING HERE?
MAYBE IT'S A FAKE. SUPERMAN'S CAPE COULDN'T TEAR SO EASILY. OR WOULD IT? AFTER ALL, I DON'T KNOW MY OWN STRENGTH. BUT COULD SUPERMAN HAVE COME HERE INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING ME AS I EXPECTED?
HM--MAYBE HE KNEW ABOUT LUTHOR'S ACTIVITIES ALL ALONG. BUT--HIS CAPE LYING HERE... CAN IT MEAN THAT LUTHOR CAPTURED HIM BY DEVELOPING HIS VIVANIUM MACHINE SOONER THAN HE EXPECTED? OH--OH-- I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE!
AS SHE SEARCHES DESPERATELY, LOIS COMES UPON AN UNEXPECTED CLUE!
HMM... THAT'S ODD--BURNS ON THE FLOOR WHERE THE CAPE WAS LYING! THEY FORM LETTERS! H-E-L-P L-O-I-S --AND THEN-- AN ADDRESS!! WHY, SUPERMAN MUST'VE BURNED THIS MESSAGE INTO THE FLOOR WITH HIS X-RAY VISION!
HELP LOIS
CONVINCED THAT SUPERMAN IS A PRISONER OF HIS ARCH-FOE, LUTHOR, THE GIRL OF STEEL SPEEDS SWIFTLY TO THE RESCUE!
POOR SUPERMAN! I--I HOPE THAT FIEND, LUTHOR, HASN'T HARMED HIM! BUT FROM NOW ON HE'LL HAVE TO RECKON WITH ME!
MEANWHILE, AT LUTHOR'S HIDEOUT...
AFTER EIGHT HOURS, THE SUPER-POWER PRODUCED BY VIVANIUM VANISHES! BUT I'M HOPING LOIS ARRIVES BEFORE HER STRENGTH IS GONE! NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOU TO HELP ME! HA-HA! YOU'LL LOVE THIS, MY FRIEND!


AND HARDLY HAS LUTHOR COMPLETED HIS PREPARATIONS, WHEN...
LUTHOR! YOU FIEND! WHAT DID YOU DO WITH SUPERMAN?
SUPERWOMAN! STAND BACK, I WARN YOU, OR I'LL PULL THE SWITCH AND YOUR FRIEND SUPERMAN HERE WILL BE DISINTEGRATED INTO ATOMS!!
OH-- POOR SUPERMAN! NO--NO! DON'T TOUCH THE SWITCH! P-PLEASE DON'T HURT HIM!
WHY, MY DEAR YOUNG LADY-- IF YOU'LL ONLY HELP ME DO SOME CHECKING ON MY EXPERIMENT, I'LL EVEN PROMISE TO RELEASE YOUR FRIEND SUPERMAN!
YOU SEE--I'VE HAD NO CHANCE TO TEST THE USES OF THE SUPER-POWERS YOU GOT FROM MY MACHINE. BUT NOW--IF YOU'LL DO AS I ASK, I CAN OBSERVE YOU AND ADJUST THE NEW VIVANIUM MACHINE I'LL BE BUILDING DURING THE COMING MONTHS ACCORDINGLY.
IF HE DIDN'T HAVE THE MACHINE -- THEN, HOW DID HE TRAP SUPERMAN?
TO TEST YOU, I WANT YOU TO ASSEMBLE THOSE HEAVY PARTS ACCORDING TO THAT BLUEPRINT WITHIN TEN MINUTES-- OR I DON'T RELEASE SUPERMAN!
YES--YES--ANYTHING YOU SAY!
HE TRAPPED SUPERMAN SOMEHOW. BUT NO TIME NOW TO THINK OF THAT...
WORKING AT FURIOUS SUPER-SPEED, LOIS STRUGGLES CLUMSILY TO CONTROL HER UNWIELDY SUPER-STRENGTH AND COMPLETE THE TASK IN TIME TO FREE SUPERMAN!
OH--OH DEAR! I SEEM TO BE ALL THUMBS! BUT--I--I'VE GOT TO FINISH THIS IN TIME--OR SUPERMAN IS LOST! I KNOW LUTHOR, ROTTEN THOUGH HE IS, WILL KEEP HIS WORD. WHEW--THIS JOB WOULD TAKE ORDINARY MEN MONTHS TO COMPLETE...
DESPERATELY--FEVERISHLY, LOIS WORKS--AND FINALLY--AT THE CLOSE OF THE ALLOTED TIME...
THERE--IT'S FINISHED! I DID IT! NOW--- WILL YOU RELEASE SUPERMAN?
HA-HA! CERTAINLY, MISS LANE! HA-HA! YOU MAY NOW HAVE THE PLEASURE OF SEEING THAT HE'S NOT SUPERMAN AT ALL, BUT A CONFEDERATE OF MINE-- WHEN HE LIFTS THAT HELMET AND REVEALS HIS FACE! HA!
11

WHAT? THOSE CLUES I FOUND -- EVERYTHING -- ALL A SHODDY TRICK? I'LL SHOW YOU, YOU-- OOPS!
HA-HA! EXACTLY ONE MINUTE TOO LATE, MY DEAR! THE EFFECT OF YOUR VIVANIUM TREATMENT HAS WORN OFF. YOU'RE HELPLESS! HA-HA!
AND WITH YOUR LAST STRENGTH, I HAD YOU CONSTRUCT IN TEN MINUTES A BETTER VIVANIUM MACHINE THAT WOULD HAVE TAKEN ME MONTHS TO BUILD! HA-HA! HEY, STEPNEY -- COME OUT OF THAT FAKE CONTRAPTION AND GRAB HER, WILL YOU?
OH!
AND NOW TO PULL THE SWITCH THAT'LL CHANGE ME TO A SUPER-- HUH??
TO THE SUPER-JAIL BIRD THAT YOU ARE, LUTHOR! HERE'S WHERE I GIVE YOU A SAMPLE OF YOUR NEXT HOME!
THE REAL SUPERMAN! H-HOW--WHAT--?
I SIMPLY FOLLOWED LOIS HERE -- AND WHILE YOU WATCHED HER DASH ABOUT BUILDING THAT MACHINE, I MANAGED TO SNATCH AWAY YOUR FAKE SUPERMAN AND TAKE HIS PLACE!
AND NOW TO USE MY X-RAY VISION TO BURN UP THIS LAST BIT OF VIVANIUM, WHICH, TO MY KNOWLEDGE IS ALL THAT REMAINS ON EARTH!
B-BUT SUPERMAN -- HOW DID YOU EVER MANAGE TO FOLLOW ME?
YOU MIGHT HAVE SHAKEN ME, LOIS, EXCEPT FOR YOUR FEMININE VANITY. BUT YOUR PERFUME LEFT A SCENTED TRAIL FOR MY SUPER-SENSITIVE NOSTRILS!
OH--I'M SO GLAD TO BE JUST PLAIN LOIS LANE AGAIN, NOW THAT I'VE LEARNED HOW USELESS SUPER-POWER IS WITHOUT THE WISDOM TO USE IT!
THE END

ADVERTISEMENT

"U.S." ROYAL
WITH HIS
JET-PROPELLED BIKE

"SABOTAGING THE SABOTEURS"

AS AN ARMY PLANE TAKES OFF, CARRYING SECRET JET-BOMBER DESIGNS, U S ROYAL AND THE BIKE CLUB BOYS OVERHEAR...

WELL, OUR JOB'S DONE, LUKE! THAT PLANE WILL NEVER REACH WASHINGTON. LET'S GO--

HMMM... DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT!

ROYAL AND THE BOYS FOLLOW THE MEN TO A HIDEOUT AND LISTEN, AS LUKE REPORTS TO THE BOSS...

IN 30 MINUTES, THE TIME-BOMB WE PLANTED ON THAT PLANE GOES OFF AND—BOOM!—GO THE JET DESIGNS!

HOPE THE BOYS GET BACK WITH THE POLICE BEFORE THOSE RATS ESCAPE...AND I HOPE I GET TO THAT FLIGHT-TOWER IN TIME!

THANKS TO ROYAL'S SUPER-SPEED, SOON--INSIDE THE DOOMED PLANE--

--AND IS TIMED TO EXPLODE IN 5 MINUTES!

HURRY! DUMP IT WHILE WE'RE OVER THE OCEAN!

BOOM!

LATER, WITH THE SABOTEURS UNDER ARREST, AND THE JET DESIGNS SAFE IN WASHINGTON..

WE CERTAINLY OWE A LOT TO YOU BOYS--AND TO YOUR FAST ACTION. THAT'S WHAT I CALL SUPER-BIKING!

NOTHING TO IT WHEN YOU'RE RIDING ON SUPER-BIKE-TIRES--LIKE U.S. ROYALS! RIGHT, FELLAS?

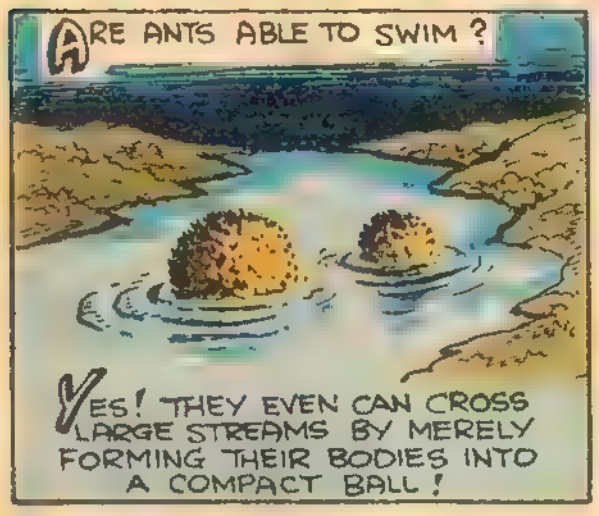
SPEED THE SAFE WAY, FELLAS--GET U.S. ROYALS ON YOUR BIKE. THAT BUILT-IN SKID CHAIN REALLY GRIPS AND HOLDS THE ROAD--IN ANY WEATHER!

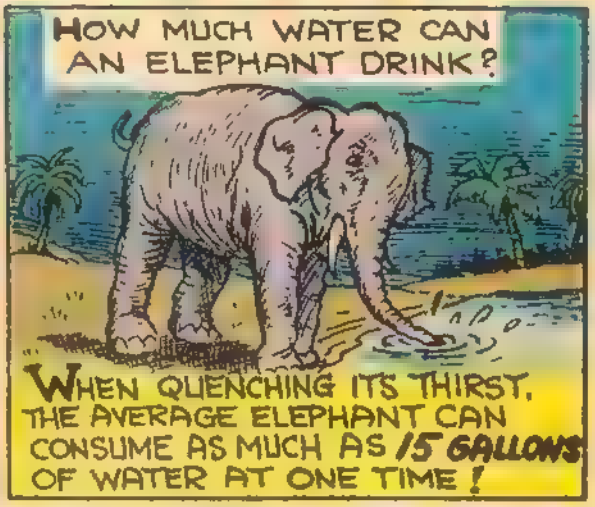
FOR SAFE, FAST STOPS--LONGER WEAR--AND EASY PEDALING, YOU CAN RELY ON U.S. ROYALS, WITH THE BUILT-IN SKID CHAIN. TRY THEM AND SEE!

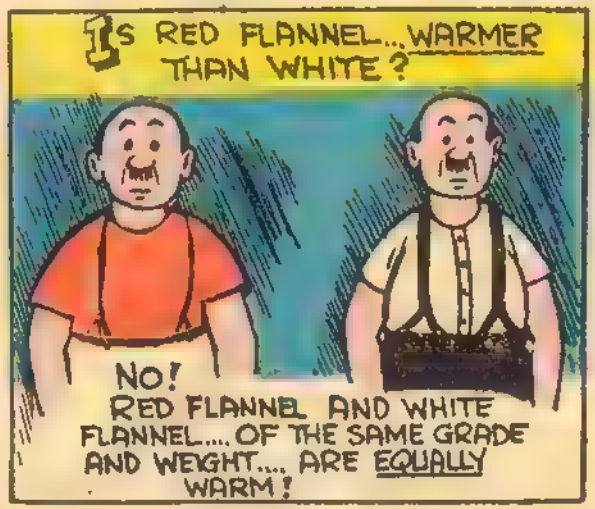
U.S. ROYAL
BIKE TIRES

Products of
UNITED STATES RUBBER COMPANY

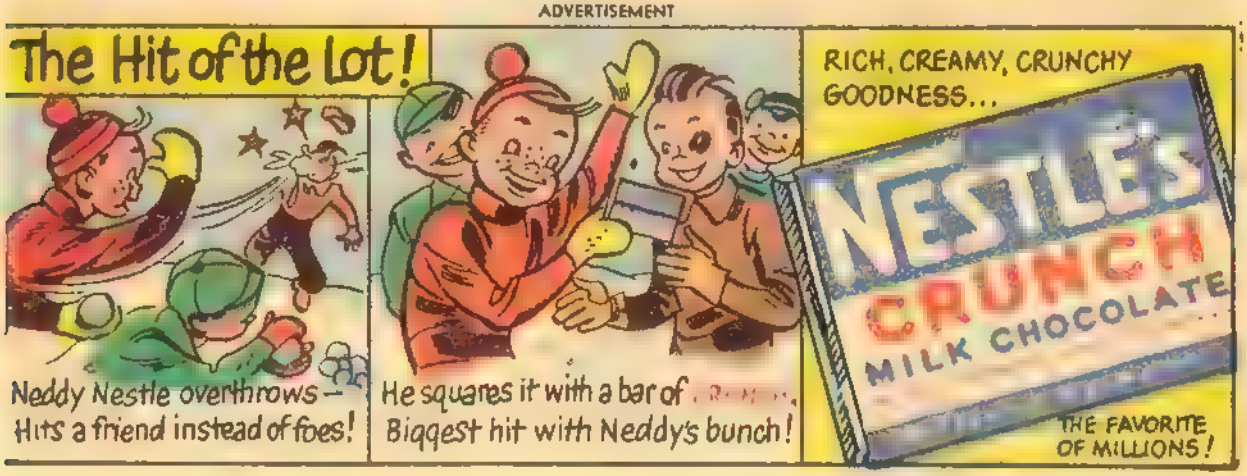
QUICK QUIZ

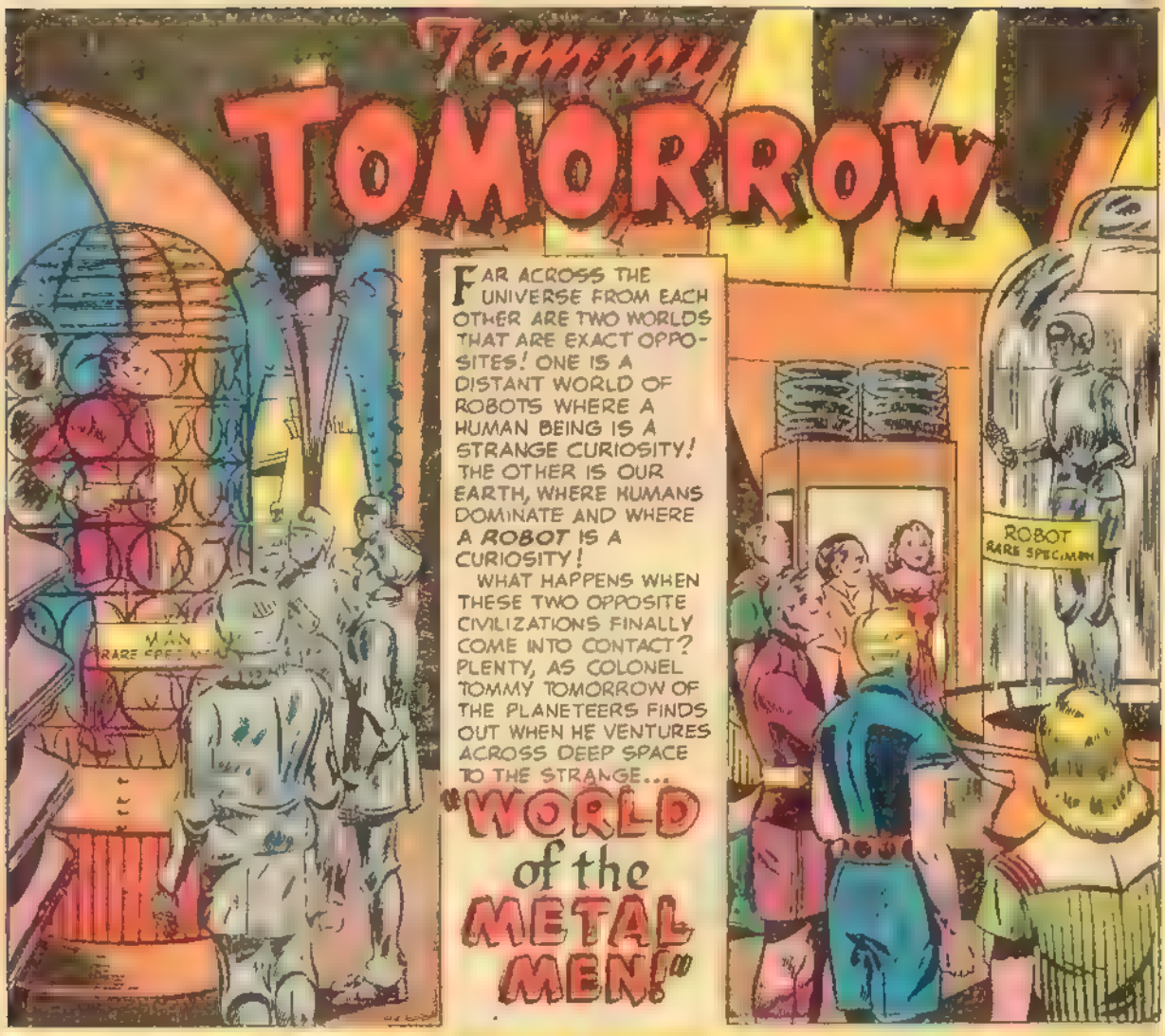


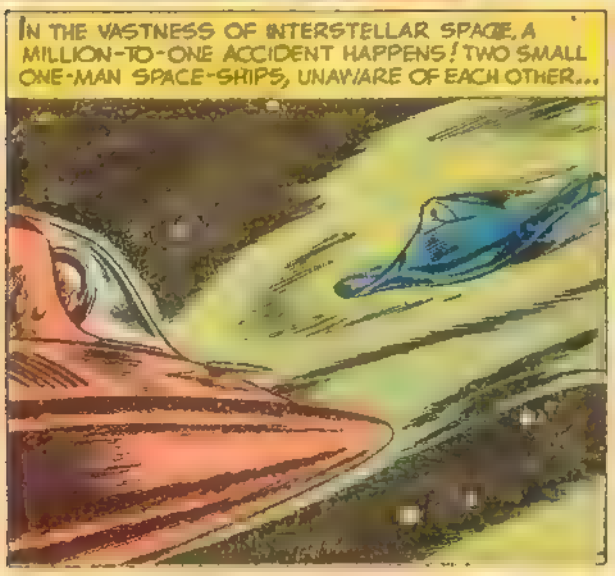


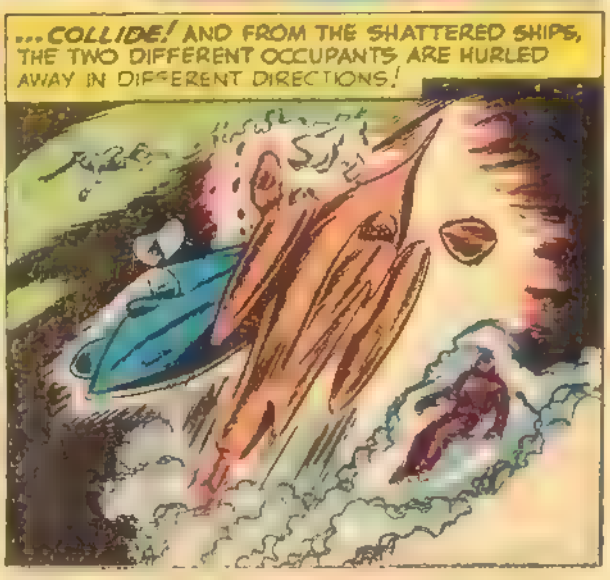


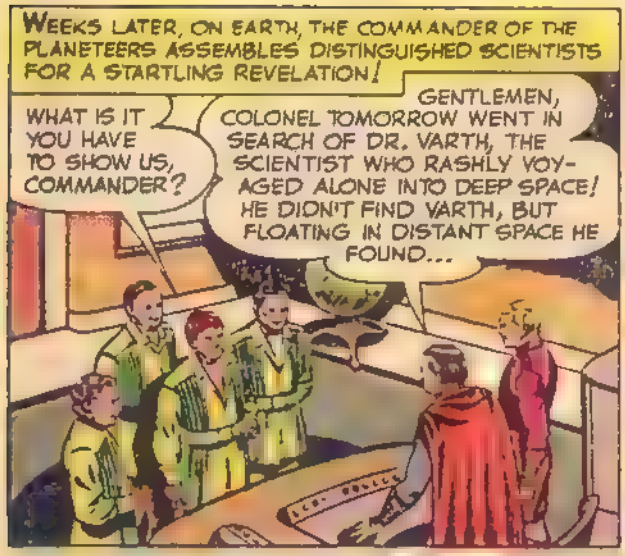
ADVERTISEMENT

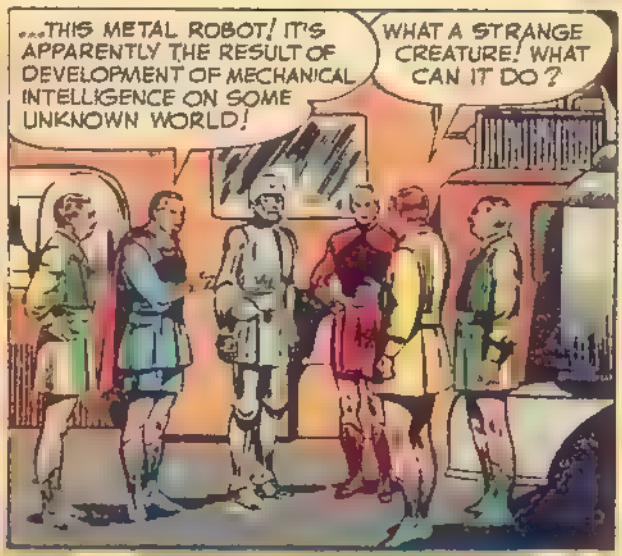


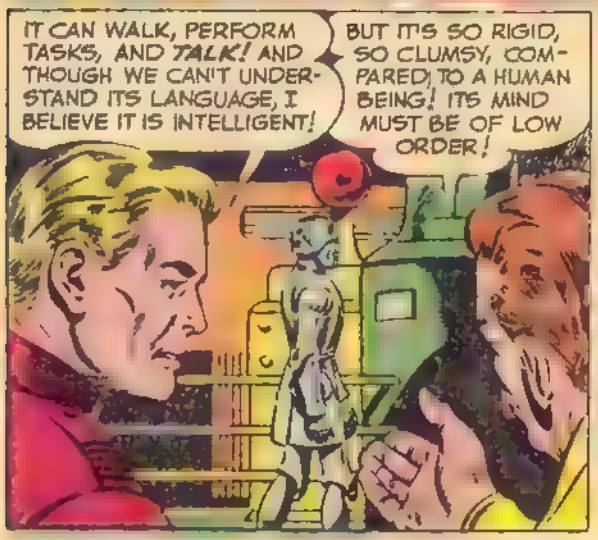

Tommy
TOMORROW
FAR ACROSS THE UNIVERSE FROM EACH OTHER ARE TWO WORLDS THAT ARE EXACT OPPOSITES! ONE IS A DISTANT WORLD OF ROBOTS WHERE A HUMAN BEING IS A STRANGE CURIOSITY! THE OTHER IS OUR EARTH, WHERE HUMANS DOMINATE AND WHERE A ROBOT IS A CURIOSITY!
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THESE TWO OPPOSITE CIVILIZATIONS FINALLY COME INTO CONTACT? PLENTY, AS COLONEL TOMMY TOMORROW OF THE PLANETEERS FINDS OUT WHEN HE VENTURES ACROSS DEEP SPACE TO THE STRANGE...
"WORLD of the METAL MEN!"
ROBOT
RARE SPECIMEN

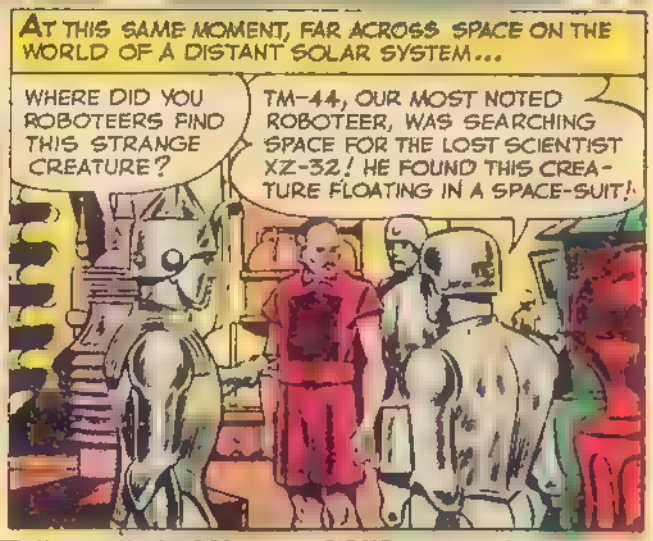

IN THE VASTNESS OF INTERSTELLAR SPACE, A MILLION-TO-ONE ACCIDENT HAPPENS! TWO SMALL ONE-MAN SPACE-SHIPS, UNAWARE OF EACH OTHER...

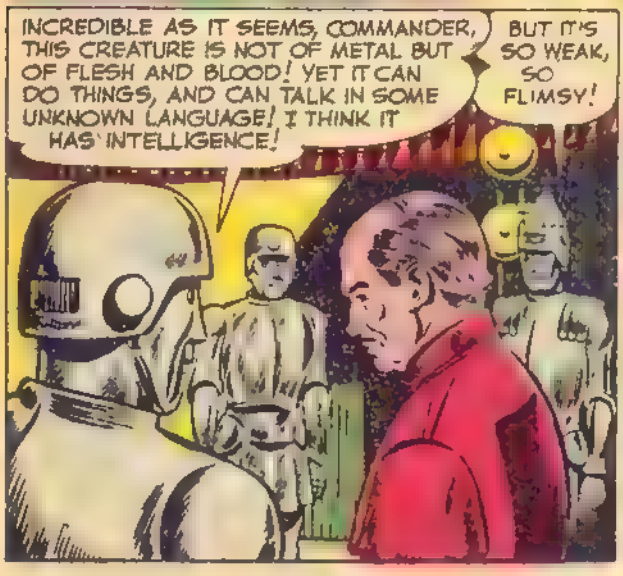

...COLLIDE! AND FROM THE SHATTERED SHIPS, THE TWO DIFFERENT OCCUPANTS ARE HURLED AWAY IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS!

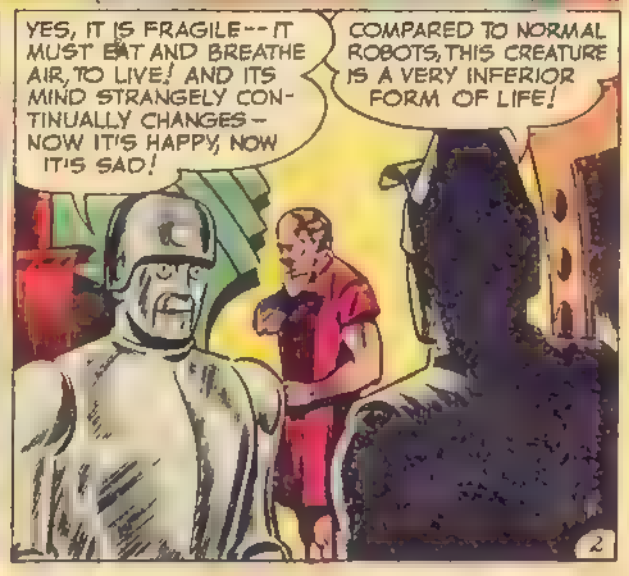

WEEKS LATER, ON EARTH, THE COMMANDER OF THE PLANETEERS ASSEMBLES DISTINGUISHED SCIENTISTS FOR A STARTLING REVELATION!
WHAT IS IT YOU HAVE TO SHOW US, COMMANDER?
GENTLEMEN, COLONEL TOMORROW WENT IN SEARCH OF DR. VARTH, THE SCIENTIST WHO RASHLY VOYAGED ALONE INTO DEEP SPACE! HE DIDN'T FIND VARTH, BUT FLOATING IN DISTANT SPACE HE FOUND...


...THIS METAL ROBOT! IT'S APPARENTLY THE RESULT OF DEVELOPMENT OF MECHANICAL INTELLIGENCE ON SOME UNKNOWN WORLD!
WHAT A STRANGE CREATURE! WHAT CAN IT DO?

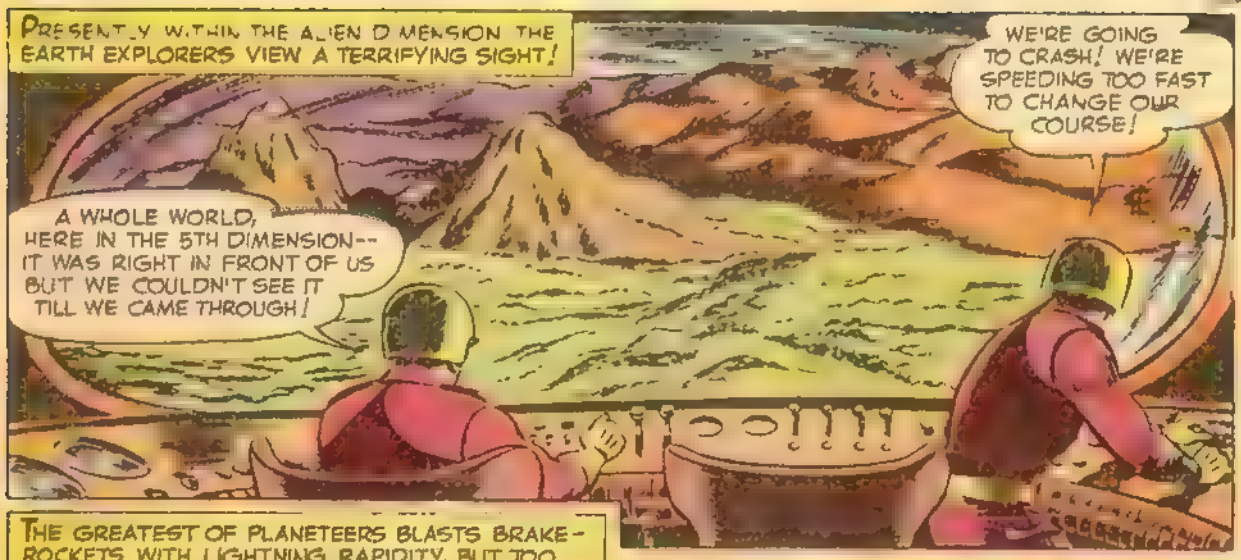

IT CAN WALK, PERFORM TASKS, AND TALK! AND THOUGH WE CAN'T UNDERSTAND ITS LANGUAGE, I BELIEVE IT IS INTELLIGENT!
BUT IT'S SO RIGID, SO CLUMSY, COMPARED TO A HUMAN BEING! ITS MIND MUST BE OF LOW ORDER!

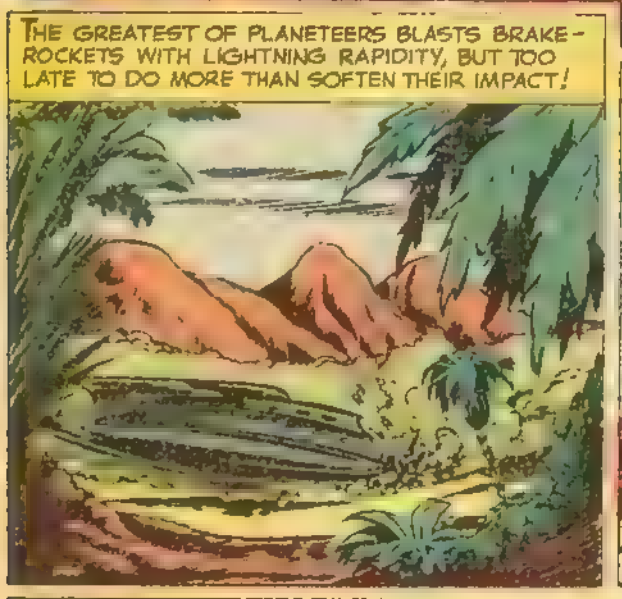

AT THIS SAME MOMENT, FAR ACROSS SPACE ON THE WORLD OF A DISTANT SOLAR SYSTEM...
WHERE DID YOU ROBOTEERS FIND THIS STRANGE CREATURE?
TM-44, OUR MOST NOTED ROBOTEER, WAS SEARCHING SPACE FOR THE LOST SCIENTIST XZ-32! HE FOUND THIS CREATURE FLOATING IN A SPACE-SUIT!

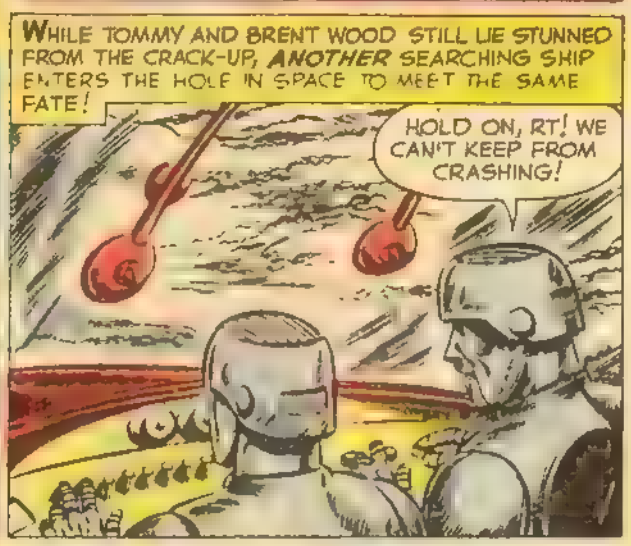

INCREDIBLE AS IT SEEMS, COMMANDER, THIS CREATURE IS NOT OF METAL BUT OF FLESH AND BLOOD! YET IT CAN DO THINGS, AND CAN TALK IN SOME UNKNOWN LANGUAGE! I THINK IT HAS INTELLIGENCE!
BUT IT'S SO WEAK, SO FLIMSY!

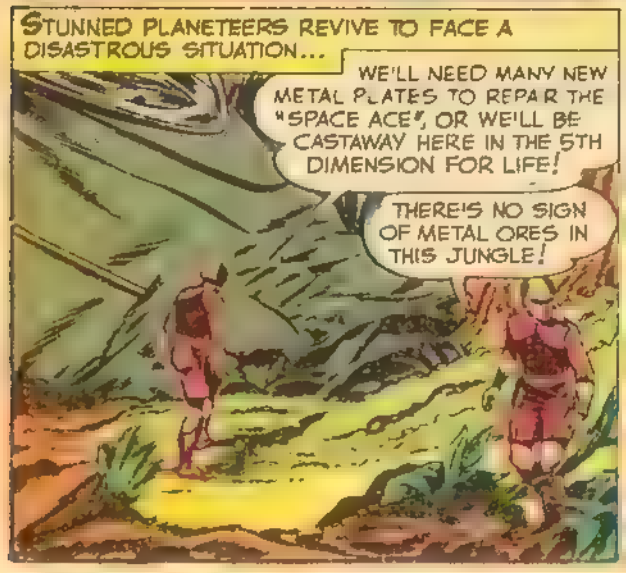

YES, IT IS FRAGILE -- IT MUST EAT AND BREATHE AIR, TO LIVE! AND ITS MIND STRANGELY CONTINUALLY CHANGES -- NOW IT'S HAPPY, NOW IT'S SAD!
COMPARED TO NORMAL ROBOTS, THIS CREATURE IS A VERY INFERIOR FORM OF LIFE!

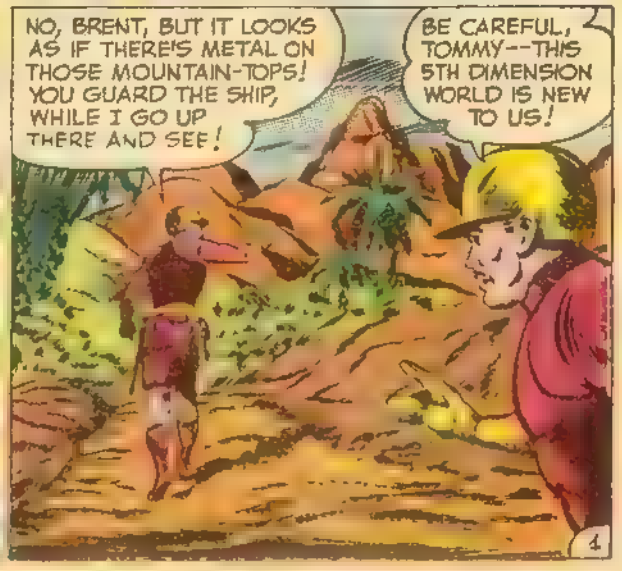
PRESENTLY, ON EARTH TOMMY TOMORROW IS GIVEN AN URGENT MISSION...
COLONEL TOMORROW, IF THERE ARE MANY OF THOSE ROBOTS, THEY MIGHT BE DANGEROUS! I WANT YOU TO FIND OUT IF THERE'S A WORLD OF SUCH ROBOTS!
VERY WELL, SIR!
AND ON THE ROBOT WORLD, TM-44 OF THE ROBOTEERS RECEIVES A SIMILAR MISSION!
TAKE YOUR SHIP AND FIND OUT IF THERE ARE ANY MORE OF THOSE STRANGE FLESH-AND-BLOOD CREATURES OUT THERE IN SPACE! THEY MIGHT BE DANGEROUS!
YES, SIR!
THUS, FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE UNIVERSE, TWO STRANGELY DIFFERENT SPACE VENTURERS RUSH TOWARD THE SAME PERILOUS REGION OF SPACE!
WE'LL SEARCH THE REGION WHERE XZ-32 DISAPPEARED, AND WHERE WE FOUND THAT HUMAN!
WE'LL SEARCH THE SECTOR WHERE DR. VARTH VANISHED, AND WHERE WE FOUND THE ROBOT.
AS THE "SPACE ACE" COMBS THAT UNKNOWN SECTOR OF SPACE...
TOMMY, LOOK AT THAT QUEER SHIMMER IN SPACE AHEAD! IT'S SOME WEIRD SPACE PHENOMENON!
DR. VARTH WENT TO INVESTIGATE SOME MYSTERY ABOUT SPACE HERE! WE'LL SEE WHAT IT IS!
BUT AS THE SHIP RUSHES INTO THE UNCANNY SHIMMER...
TOMMY, THE INSTRUMENTS HAVE GONE CRAZY! AND I FEEL STRANGE...
WHY, THIS SHIMMER IS A HOLE IN SPACE! A HOLE INTO THE 5TH DIMENSION!
3

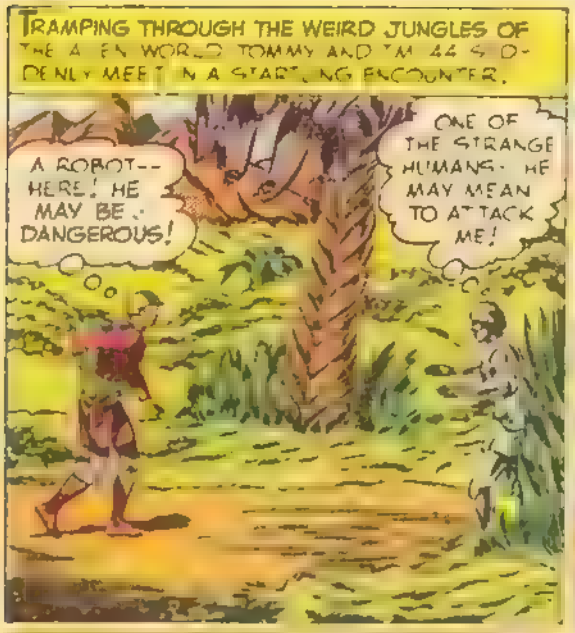

PRESENTLY WITHIN THE ALIEN DIMENSION THE EARTH EXPLORERS VIEW A TERRIFYING SIGHT!
WE'RE GOING TO CRASH! WE'RE SPEEDING TOO FAST TO CHANGE OUR COURSE!
A WHOLE WORLD, HERE IN THE 5TH DIMENSION-- IT WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF US BUT WE COULDN'T SEE IT TILL WE CAME THROUGH!

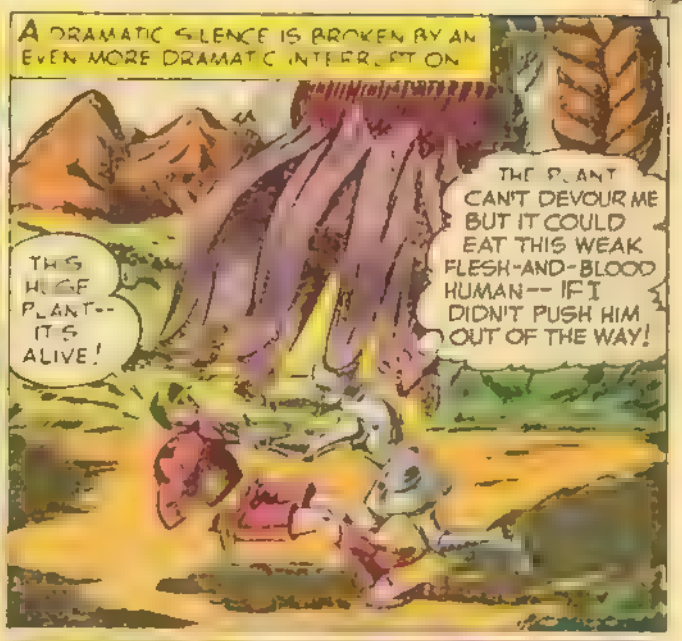

THE GREATEST OF PLANETEERS BLASTS BRAKE-ROCKETS WITH LIGHTNING RAPIDITY, BUT TOO LATE TO DO MORE THAN SOFTEN THEIR IMPACT!

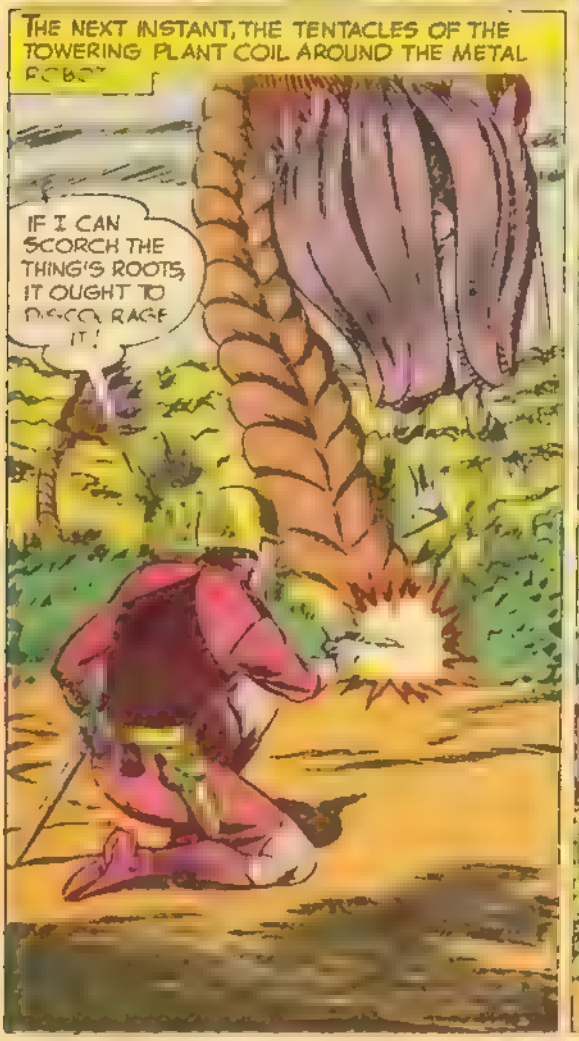

WHILE TOMMY AND BRENT WOOD STILL LIE STUNNED FROM THE CRACK-UP, ANOTHER SEARCHING SHIP ENTERS THE HOLE IN SPACE TO MEET THE SAME FATE!
HOLD ON, RT! WE CAN'T KEEP FROM CRASHING!

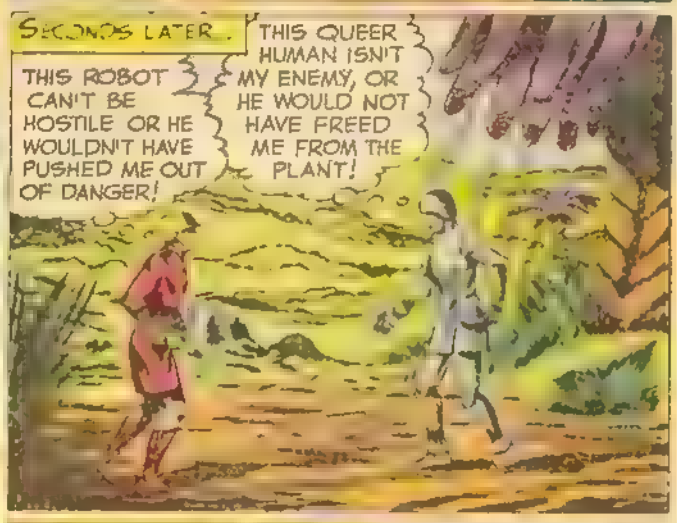

STUNNED PLANETEERS REVIVE TO FACE A DISASTROUS SITUATION...
WE'LL NEED MANY NEW METAL PLATES TO REPAIR THE "SPACE ACE", OR WE'LL BE CASTAWAY HERE IN THE 5TH DIMENSION FOR LIFE!
THERE'S NO SIGN OF METAL ORES IN THIS JUNGLE!

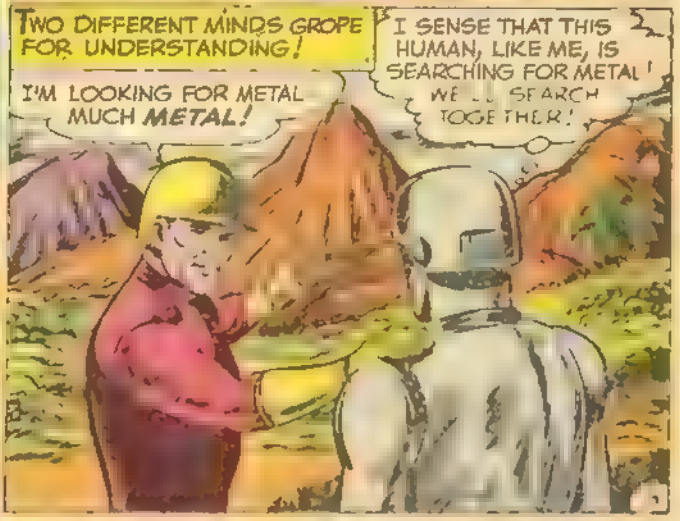

NO, BRENT, BUT IT LOOKS AS IF THERE'S METAL ON THOSE MOUNTAIN-TOPS! YOU GUARD THE SHIP, WHILE I GO UP THERE AND SEE!
BE CAREFUL, TOMMY--THIS 5TH DIMENSION WORLD IS NEW TO US!

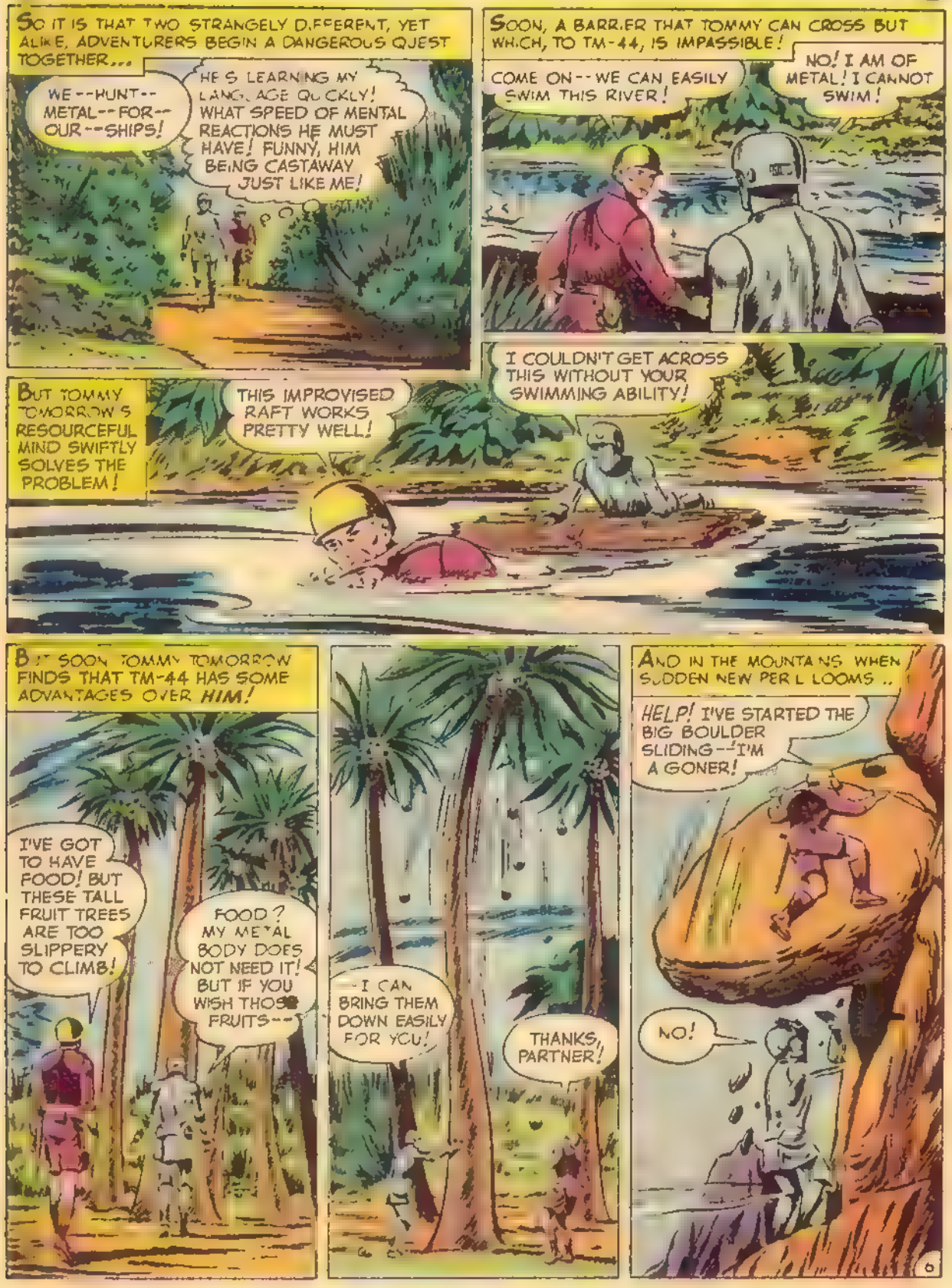

TRAMPING THROUGH THE WEIRD JUNGLES OF THE ALIEN WORLD TOMMY AND TM 44 SUDDENLY MEET IN A STARTLING ENCOUNTER.
A ROBOT-- HERE! HE MAY BE DANGEROUS!
ONE OF THE STRANGE HUMANS. HE MAY MEAN TO ATTACK ME!

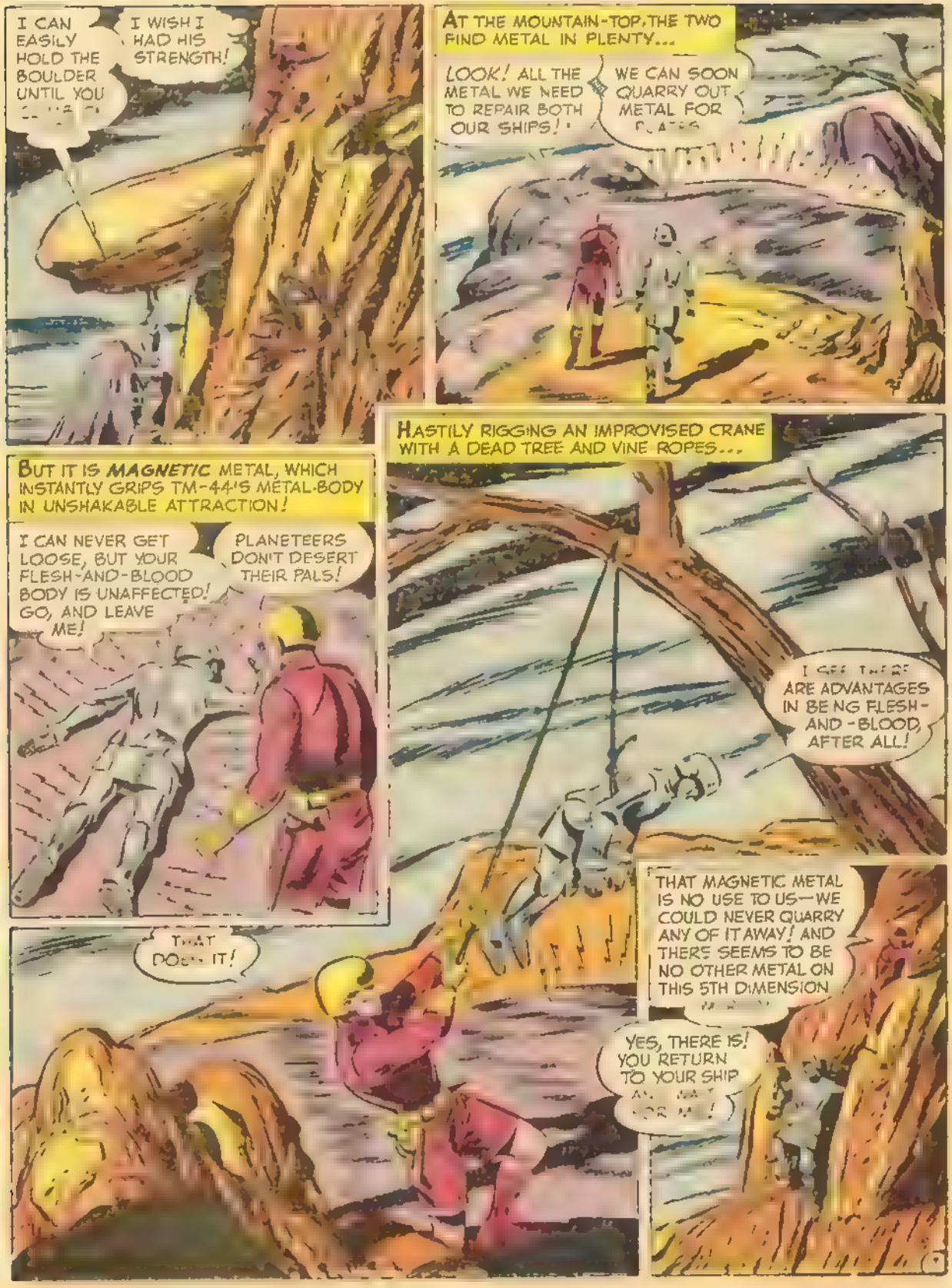

A DRAMATIC SILENCE IS BROKEN BY AN EVEN MORE DRAMATIC INTERLUDE ON
THIS HUGE PLANT-- IT'S ALIVE!
THE PLANT CAN'T DEVOUR ME BUT IT COULD EAT THIS WEAK FLESH-AND-BLOOD HUMAN-- IF I DIDN'T PUSH HIM OUT OF THE WAY!


THE NEXT INSTANT, THE TENTACLES OF THE TOWERING PLANT COIL AROUND THE METAL ROBOT
IF I CAN SCORCH THE THING'S ROOTS, IT OUGHT TO DISCOURAGE IT!


SECONDS LATER.
THIS ROBOT CAN'T BE HOSTILE OR HE WOULDN'T HAVE PUSHED ME OUT OF DANGER!
THIS QUEER HUMAN ISN'T MY ENEMY, OR HE WOULD NOT HAVE FREED ME FROM THE PLANT!

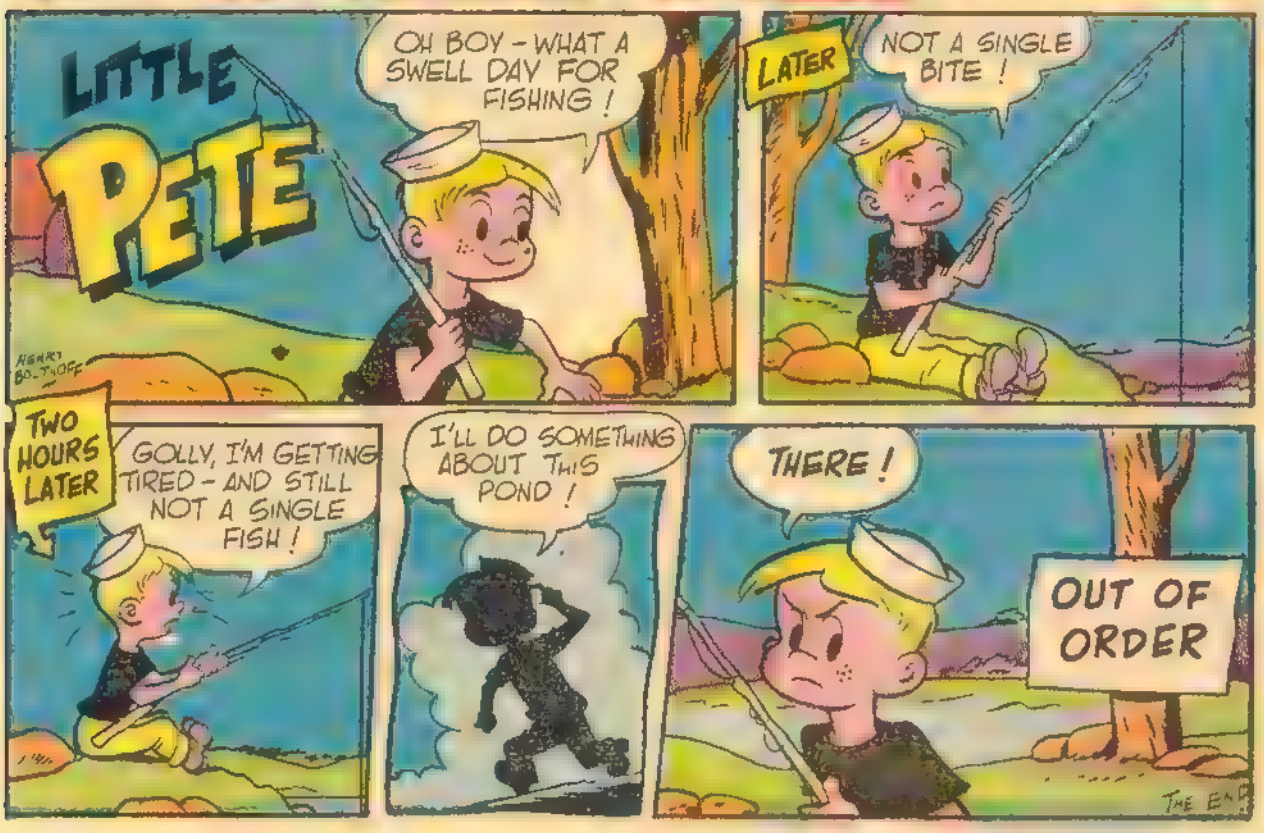

TWO DIFFERENT MINDS GROPE FOR UNDERSTANDING!
I'M LOOKING FOR METAL MUCH METAL!
I SENSE THAT THIS HUMAN, LIKE ME, IS SEARCHING FOR METAL! WE'LL SEARCH TOGETHER!

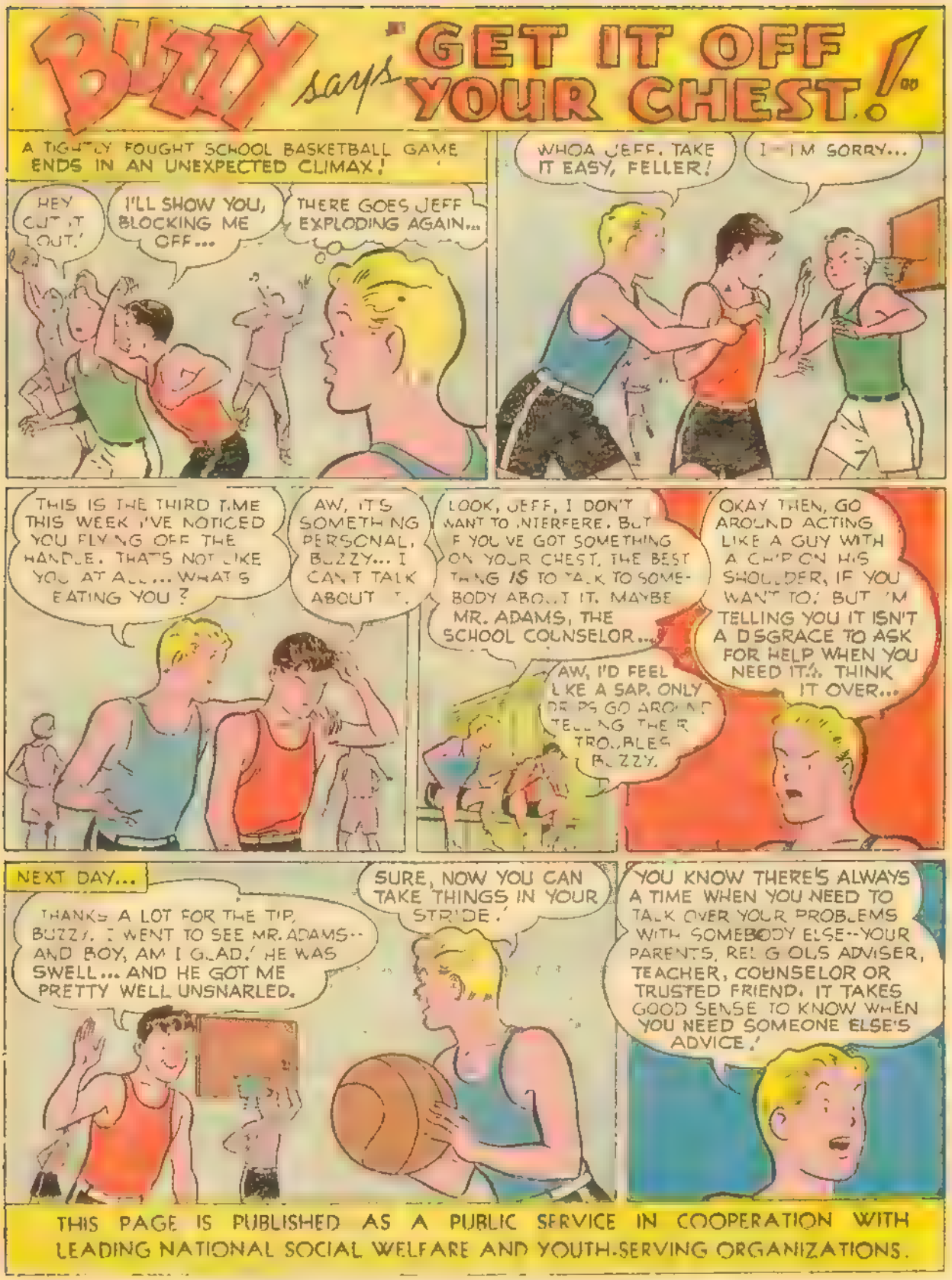

SO IT IS THAT TWO STRANGELY DIFFERENT, YET ALIKE, ADVENTURERS BEGIN A DANGEROUS QUEST TOGETHER...
WE--HUNT--METAL--FOR--OUR--SHIPS!
HE'S LEARNING MY LANGUAGE QUICKLY! WHAT SPEED OF MENTAL REACTIONS HE MUST HAVE! FUNNY, HIM BEING CASTAWAY JUST LIKE ME!
SOON, A BARRIER THAT TOMMY CAN CROSS BUT WHICH, TO TM-44, IS IMPASSIBLE!
COME ON--WE CAN EASILY SWIM THIS RIVER!
NO! I AM OF METAL! I CANNOT SWIM!
BUT TOMMY TOMORROW'S RESOURCEFUL MIND SWIFTLY SOLVES THE PROBLEM!
THIS IMPROVISED RAFT WORKS PRETTY WELL!
I COULDN'T GET ACROSS THIS WITHOUT YOUR SWIMMING ABILITY!
BUT SOON TOMMY TOMORROW FINDS THAT TM-44 HAS SOME ADVANTAGES OVER HIM!
I'VE GOT TO HAVE FOOD! BUT THESE TALL FRUIT TREES ARE TOO SLIPPERY TO CLIMB!
FOOD? MY METAL BODY DOES NOT NEED IT! BUT IF YOU WISH THOSE FRUITS--
--I CAN BRING THEM DOWN EASILY FOR YOU!
THANKS, PARTNER!
AND IN THE MOUNTAINS WHEN SUDDEN NEW PERIL LOOMS..
HELP! I'VE STARTED THE BIG BOULDER SLIDING--I'M A GONER!
NO!


I CAN EASILY HOLD THE BOULDER UNTIL YOU
I WISH I HAD HIS STRENGTH!
AT THE MOUNTAIN-TOP, THE TWO FIND METAL IN PLENTY...
LOOK! ALL THE METAL WE NEED TO REPAIR BOTH OUR SHIPS!
WE CAN SOON QUARRY OUT METAL FOR
BUT IT IS MAGNETIC METAL, WHICH INSTANTLY GRIPS TM-44'S METAL-BODY IN UNSHAKABLE ATTRACTION!
I CAN NEVER GET LOOSE, BUT YOUR FLESH-AND-BLOOD BODY IS UNAFFECTED! GO, AND LEAVE ME!
PLANETEERS DON'T DESERT THEIR PALS!
HASTILY RIGGING AN IMPROVISED CRANE WITH A DEAD TREE AND VINE ROPES...
I SEE THERE ARE ADVANTAGES IN BEING FLESH-AND-BLOOD, AFTER ALL!
THAT DOES IT!
THAT MAGNETIC METAL IS NO USE TO US—WE COULD NEVER QUARRY ANY OF IT AWAY! AND THERE SEEMS TO BE NO OTHER METAL ON THIS 5TH DIMENSION
YES, THERE IS! YOU RETURN TO YOUR SHIP

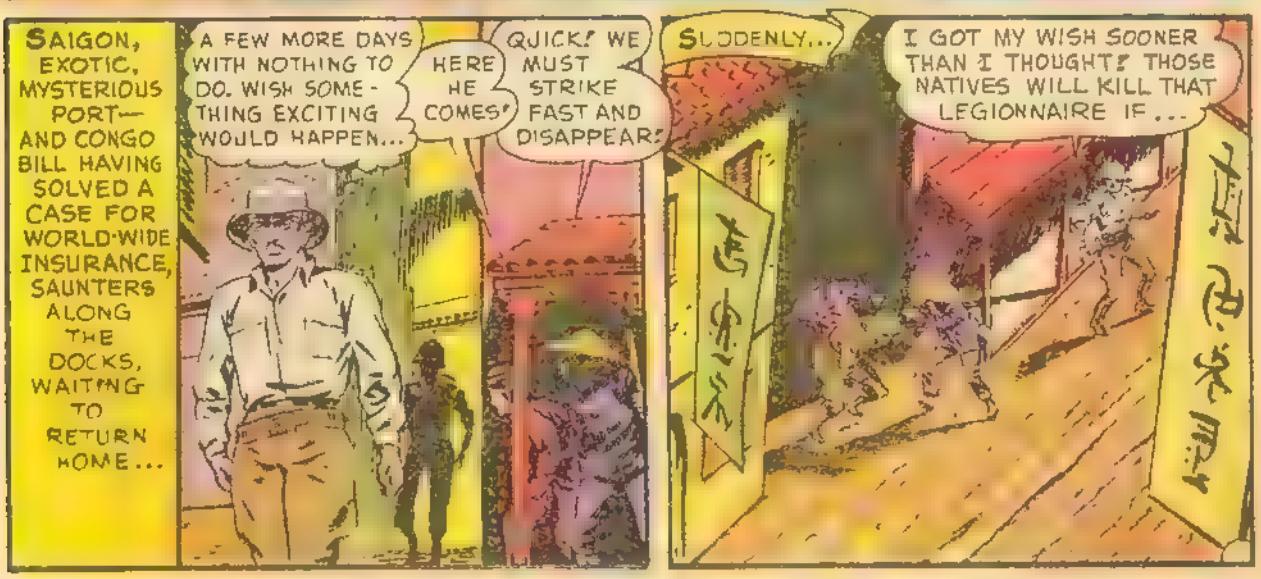
SOON...
THE PLATES FROM OUR SHIP WILL REPAIR YOUR SHIP!
THAT'S SWELL OF YOU, TM! ONCE THE "SPACE ACE" CAN FLY, WE'LL TAKE YOU TWO BACK TO YOUR OWN WORLD!
FLYING OUT THROUGH THE HOLE IN SPACE, BACK INTO THEIR OWN DIMENSION, THE "SPACE ACE" PAUSES BRIEFLY...
THIS RAY-BEACON WE MADE FROM THE REST OF MY SHIP WILL HENCEFORTH WARN ALL SHIPS AWAY FROM THE HOLE IN SPACE!
RIGHT, TM! AND NOW GUIDE US TO YOUR OWN WORLD!
LATER, ON THE DISTANT WORLD OF THE ROBOTS, METAL MEN ARE AMAZED BY THE COMING OF HUMANS UNTIL TM-44 SPEAKS!
THESE HUMANS ARE MY FRIENDS! WE'LL LET THEM TAKE THE OTHER HUMAN HOME WITH THEM!
YES! IF THEY HELPED YOU, THESE HUMANS MUST BE GOOD PEOPLE!
PRESENTLY...
THEY TREATED ME WELL!
THANKS, TM, FOR TAKING GOOD CARE OF DR. VARTH! WE'LL SEND BACK THE ROBOT FROM OUR WORLD!
GOODBYE -- PARTNER!
WHEN THEY RETURN TO EARTH, THEIR FIRST ACTION IS...
HE'LL SOON BE HOME! BUT I THINK WE SHOULD KEEP THE ROBOT WORLD SECRET, SO EVIL MEN CAN NEVER BOTHER THEM!
I AGREE. BUT HOW CAN I DO IT AND STILL BE TRUTHFUL IN MY REPORT?
BUT TOMMY TOMORROW HAS A SOLUTION WHEN HE FINALLY MAKES HIS REPORT!
WE FOUND DR. VARTH, BUT WE FOUND NO WORLD OF DANGEROUS ROBOTS OUT THERE, SIR!
AND THAT'S TRUE FOR THOSE ROBOTS AREN'T DANGEROUS!
The End

ADVERTISEMENT

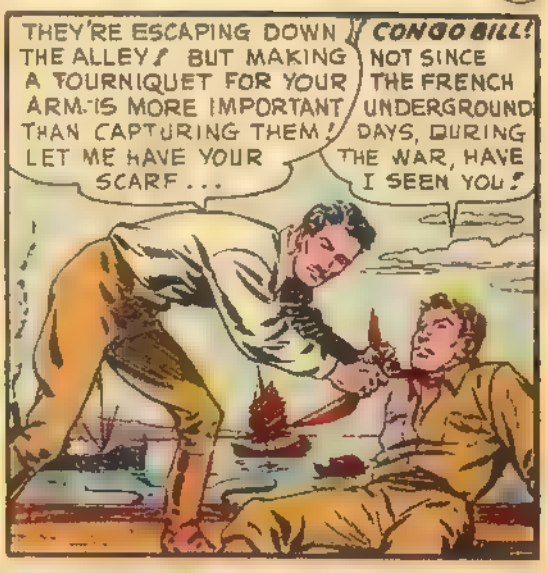


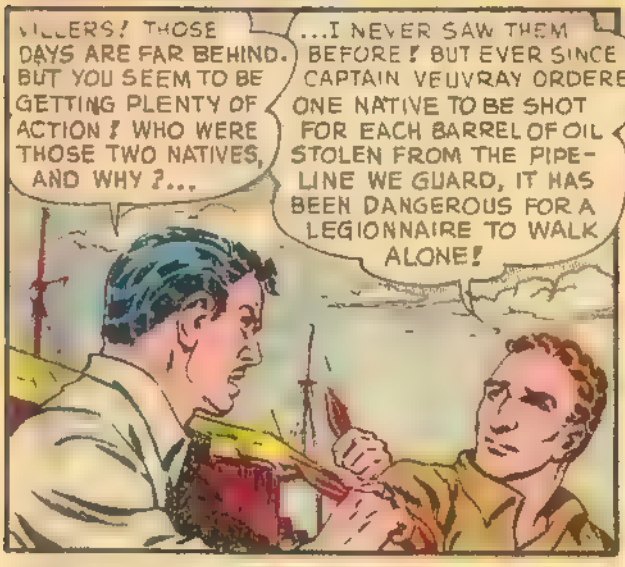

BUZZY says "GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST!"
A TIGHTLY FOUGHT SCHOOL BASKETBALL GAME ENDS IN AN UNEXPECTED CLIMAX!
HEY CUT IT OUT!
I'LL SHOW YOU, BLOCKING ME OFF...
THERE GOES JEFF EXPLODING AGAIN...
WHOA JEFF. TAKE IT EASY, FELLER!
I—I'M SORRY...
THIS IS THE THIRD TIME THIS WEEK I'VE NOTICED YOU FLYING OFF THE HANDLE. THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU AT ALL... WHAT'S EATING YOU?
AW, IT'S SOMETHING PERSONAL, BUZZY... I CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT.
LOOK, JEFF, I DON'T WANT TO INTERFERE. BUT IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING ON YOUR CHEST, THE BEST THING IS TO TALK TO SOMEBODY ABOUT IT. MAYBE MR. ADAMS, THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR...
AW, I'D FEEL LIKE A SAP. ONLY DOPES GO AROUND TELLING THEIR TROUBLES BUZZY.
OKAY THEN, GO AROUND ACTING LIKE A GUY WITH A CHIP ON HIS SHOULDER, IF YOU WANT TO. BUT I'M TELLING YOU IT ISN'T A DISGRACE TO ASK FOR HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT. THINK IT OVER...
NEXT DAY...
THANKS A LOT FOR THE TIP, BUZZY. I WENT TO SEE MR. ADAMS--AND BOY, AM I GLAD. HE WAS SWELL... AND HE GOT ME PRETTY WELL UNSNARLED.
SURE, NOW YOU CAN TAKE THINGS IN YOUR STRIDE.
YOU KNOW THERE'S ALWAYS A TIME WHEN YOU NEED TO TALK OVER YOUR PROBLEMS WITH SOMEBODY ELSE--YOUR PARENTS, RELIGIOUS ADVISER, TEACHER, COUNSELOR OR TRUSTED FRIEND. IT TAKES GOOD SENSE TO KNOW WHEN YOU NEED SOMEONE ELSE'S ADVICE.
THIS PAGE IS PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH LEADING NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS.

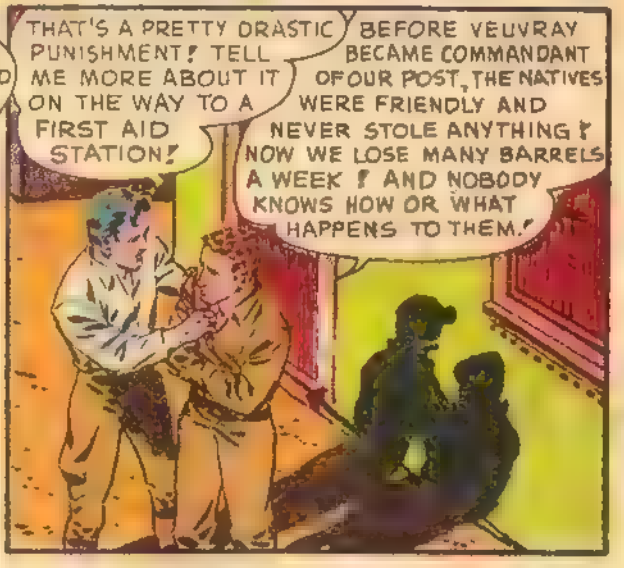
CONGO BILL
SAHARA DESERT SANDS OF AFRICA ARE EMBLAZONED WITH THE HEROIC EXPLOITS OF THE FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION! BUT FEW PEOPLE KNOW THAT THESE SOLDIERS ALSO ARE STATIONED IN FAR OFF INDO-CHINA! IT IS IN THIS TROPICAL, TERRORIZED LAND THAT CONGO BILL, ACE TROUBLE-SHOOTER AND ADVENTURER, BEFRIENDS A FORMER ALLY AND HELPS TO END THE ...
"PIPELINE PERIL!"

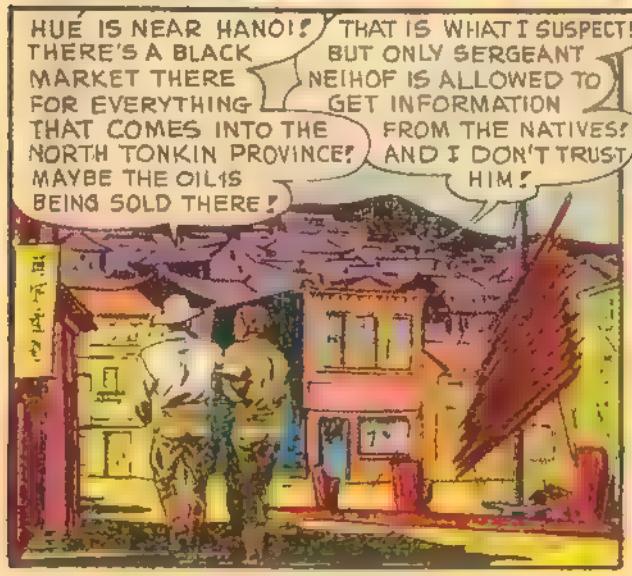

SAIGON, EXOTIC, MYSTERIOUS PORT— AND CONGO BILL HAVING SOLVED A CASE FOR WORLD-WIDE INSURANCE, SAUNTERS ALONG THE DOCKS, WAITING TO RETURN HOME...
A FEW MORE DAYS WITH NOTHING TO DO. WISH SOMETHING EXCITING WOULD HAPPEN...
HERE HE COMES!
QUICK! WE MUST STRIKE FAST AND DISAPPEAR!
SUDDENLY...
I GOT MY WISH SOONER THAN I THOUGHT! THOSE NATIVES WILL KILL THAT LEGIONNAIRE IF...

GOT ME IN THE ARM!
BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE! RIGHT NOW, I'M A LITTLE BUSY!


THEY'RE ESCAPING DOWN THE ALLEY! BUT MAKING A TOURNIQUET FOR YOUR ARM IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN CAPTURING THEM! LET ME HAVE YOUR SCARF...
CONGO BILL! NOT SINCE THE FRENCH UNDERGROUND DAYS, DURING THE WAR, HAVE I SEEN YOU!


VILLERS! THOSE DAYS ARE FAR BEHIND. BUT YOU SEEM TO BE GETTING PLENTY OF ACTION! WHO WERE THOSE TWO NATIVES, AND WHY?...
...I NEVER SAW THEM BEFORE! BUT EVER SINCE CAPTAIN VEUVRAY ORDERED ONE NATIVE TO BE SHOT FOR EACH BARREL OF OIL STOLEN FROM THE PIPE-LINE WE GUARD, IT HAS BEEN DANGEROUS FOR A LEGIONNAIRE TO WALK ALONE!

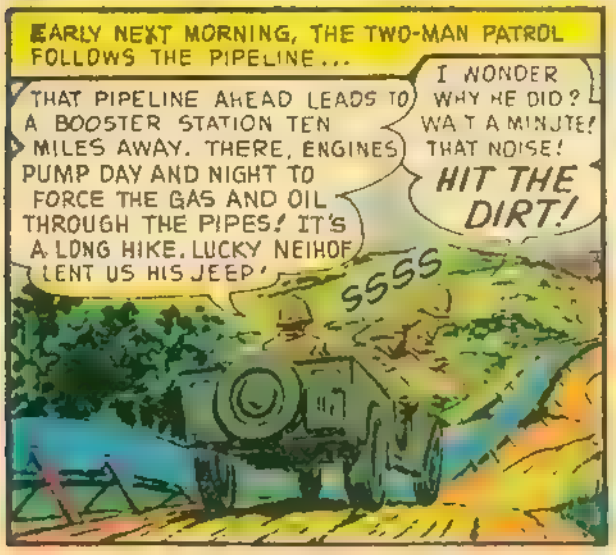

THAT'S A PRETTY DRASTIC PUNISHMENT! TELL ME MORE ABOUT IT ON THE WAY TO A FIRST AID STATION!
BEFORE VEUVRAY BECAME COMMANDANT OF OUR POST, THE NATIVES WERE FRIENDLY AND NEVER STOLE ANYTHING! NOW WE LOSE MANY BARRELS A WEEK! AND NOBODY KNOWS HOW OR WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM!

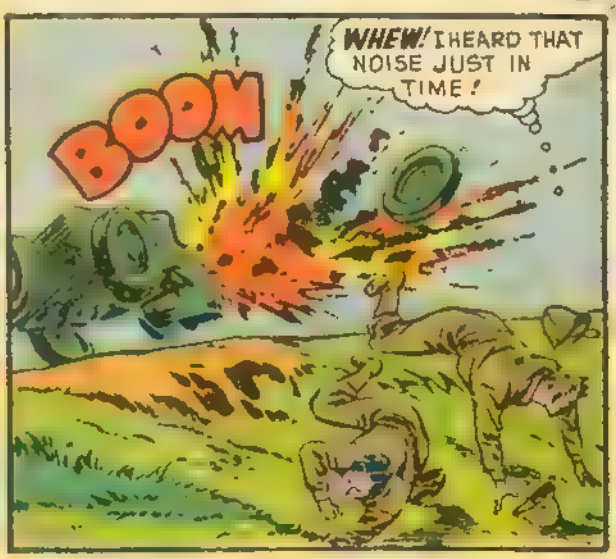

HUE IS NEAR HANOI! THERE'S A BLACK MARKET THERE FOR EVERYTHING THAT COMES INTO THE NORTH TONKIN PROVINCE! MAYBE THE OIL IS BEING SOLD THERE!
THAT IS WHAT I SUSPECT! BUT ONLY SERGEANT NEIHOF IS ALLOWED TO GET INFORMATION FROM THE NATIVES! AND I DON'T TRUST HIM!

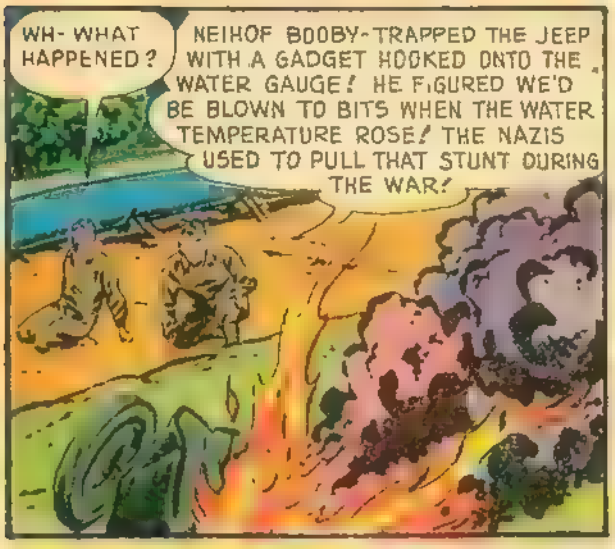
MAYBE I CAN HELP, VILLERS. I HAVE A FEW DAYS TO SPARE AND IF YOU WANT ME TO...
...IF I WANT YOU TO? YOU ARE THE ONE MAN WHO CAN FIND THINGS OUT! IT WILL BE LIKE OLD TIMES, DURING THE WAR! CONGO BILL AND FRANCOIS VILLERS! TONIGHT I LEAVE FOR HUE WITH NEW RECRUITS. COME WITH ME!

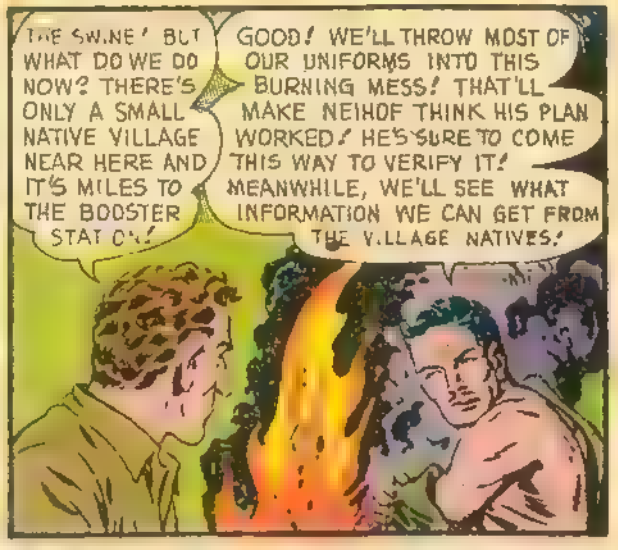
THAT NIGHT...
CONGO BILL... IN UNIFORM? YOU ARE DISGUISED? BUT, WHY?
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER! WE'LL GET A CHANCE TO TALK ON THE TRAIN! MEANWHILE, TREAT ME AS ONE OF YOUR RECRUITS!
FIVE HUNDRED WEARY TRAIN MILES LATER...
HERE COMES SERGEANT NEIHOF'S JEEP! JEUVRAY MUST HAVE SENT HIM TO TAKE CHARGE!
DON'T MENTION BEING ATTACKED IN SAIGON BY NATIVES! AND SAY NOTHING ABOUT MY BEING THERE!
SOON...
'TEN SHUN! I'M SERGEANT NEIHOF! WHAT I SAY GOES FROM NOW ON! WE'LL MARCH TO THE GARRISON FOR INSPECTION BY CAPTAIN VEUVRAY! LOAD YOUR GEAR! FO' WARD!
AND AT THE GARRISON, A SCOWLING COMMANDANT INSPECTS HIS NEW TROOPS...
WHEN CAPTAIN VEUVRAY IS FINISHED, GIVE ME YOUR NAME AND OCCUPATION!
I DON'T HAVE TO LIE! I'LL SAY I'M A PIPE-LINE TROUBLE-SHOOTER! AND THAT'S THE TRUTH!
THIS IS HUÉ! OUR GARRISON IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY OF THE OIL AND GASOLINE PIPELINES FLOWING FROM BURMA ACROSS INDO-CHINA TO THE TONKIN SEA! DO YOUR JOB AND OBEY ORDERS! ANY COMPLAINTS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO SERGEANT NEIHOF!
I WONDER WHY HE TRUSTS NEIHOF SO COMPLETELY?
AFTER CHOW, THAT EVENING...
WE'VE DRAWN AN EARLY MORNING PATROL TOMORROW, CONGO BILL! --- PRABANG!
THAT'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO INSPECT THE PIPELINE! MEANWHILE, LET'S AMBLE OVER TO THE GUARD HOUSE! I SAW NEIHOF LEAD TWO NATIVES THAT WAY!
3

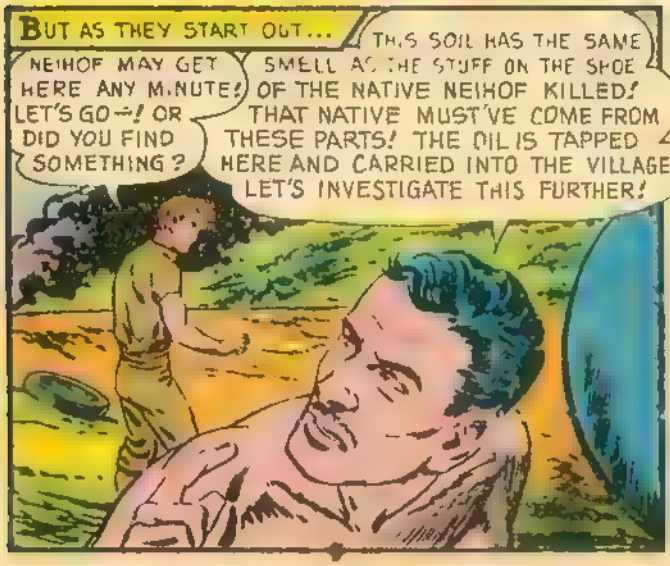
BUT AT THE STOCKADE...
LOOK! HE SHOT THEM IN THE BACK! THE DOG!
HOLD IT! IT'S TOO LATE TO SAVE THE NATIVES, BUT IF WE WAIT UNTIL NEIHOF LEAVES WE MAY BE ABLE TO FIND OUT WHY HE SHOT THEM!
WHY, THIS IS THE MAN WHO STABBED ME AT SAIGON! COULD NEIHOF HAVE KNOWN ABOUT IT?
THIS MONEY POUCH ON THE NATIVE PROVES IT! YET NATIVES HAVE BEEN ATTACKING SOLDIERS SINCE VEUVRAY'S ORDERS TO SHOOT THEM FOR STEALING OIL!
HMM— WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE ANYONE SEES US!
THEY SAW THE SHOOTING! AND FROM THE WAY THEY'RE INSPECTING THE BODIES, THEY MUST SUSPECT SOMETHING! WHERE DID THIS CONGO BILL COME FROM?
VILLERS BROUGHT HIM FROM SAIGON AND ASKED THAT HE BE ASSIGNED TO HIS SQUAD! BUT I'LL TAKE CARE OF BOTH OF THEM RIGHT NOW!
YOU FOOL! GO OVER THERE AND TRY TO STALL THEIR SUSPICIONS! WE'LL GET RID OF BOTH OF THEM TOMORROW-- ON PATROL!
SLAP!
I SHOT THEM WHEN THEY TRIED TO ESCAPE! NOW FORGET THINGS THAT DO NOT CONCERN EITHER OF YOU! AND ANOTHER THING! YOUR PATROL WILL GO TO LUANFANG TOMORROW INSTEAD OF PRABANG! CAPTAIN VEUVRAY'S ORDERS!
HE SHOT THOSE NATIVES TO SILENCE THEM WHEN THEY FAILED TO KILL VILLERS! AND NOW THERE'S A CHANGE IN ASSIGNMENT! HMMM, I'VE GOT TO BE ON GUARD!
VILLERS, YOU AND CONGO BILL WILL USE MY JEEP TO WORK THE PATROL!
JUST TWO OF US? IT'S SUICIDE IF WE RUN INTO TROUBLE!
AND THAT'S JUST WHAT HE'S PLANNING!

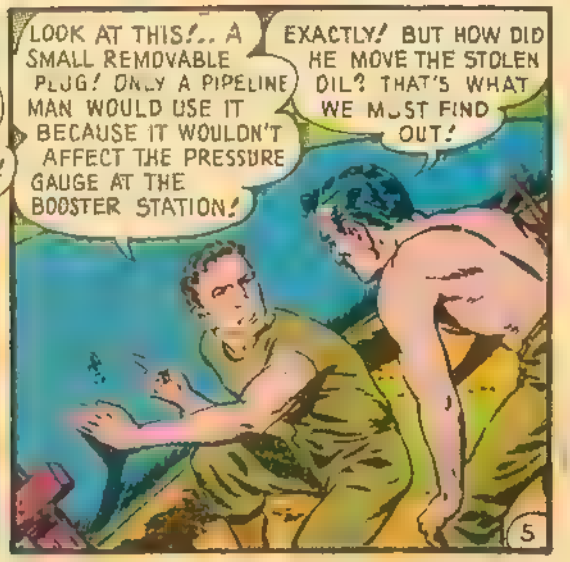

EARLY NEXT MORNING, THE TWO-MAN PATROL FOLLOWS THE PIPELINE...
THAT PIPELINE AHEAD LEADS TO A BOOSTER STATION TEN MILES AWAY. THERE, ENGINES PUMP DAY AND NIGHT TO FORCE THE GAS AND OIL THROUGH THE PIPES! IT'S A LONG HIKE. LUCKY NEIHOF LENT US HIS JEEP!
I WONDER WHY HE DID? WA T A MINUTE! THAT NOISE!
HIT THE DIRT!
SSSS

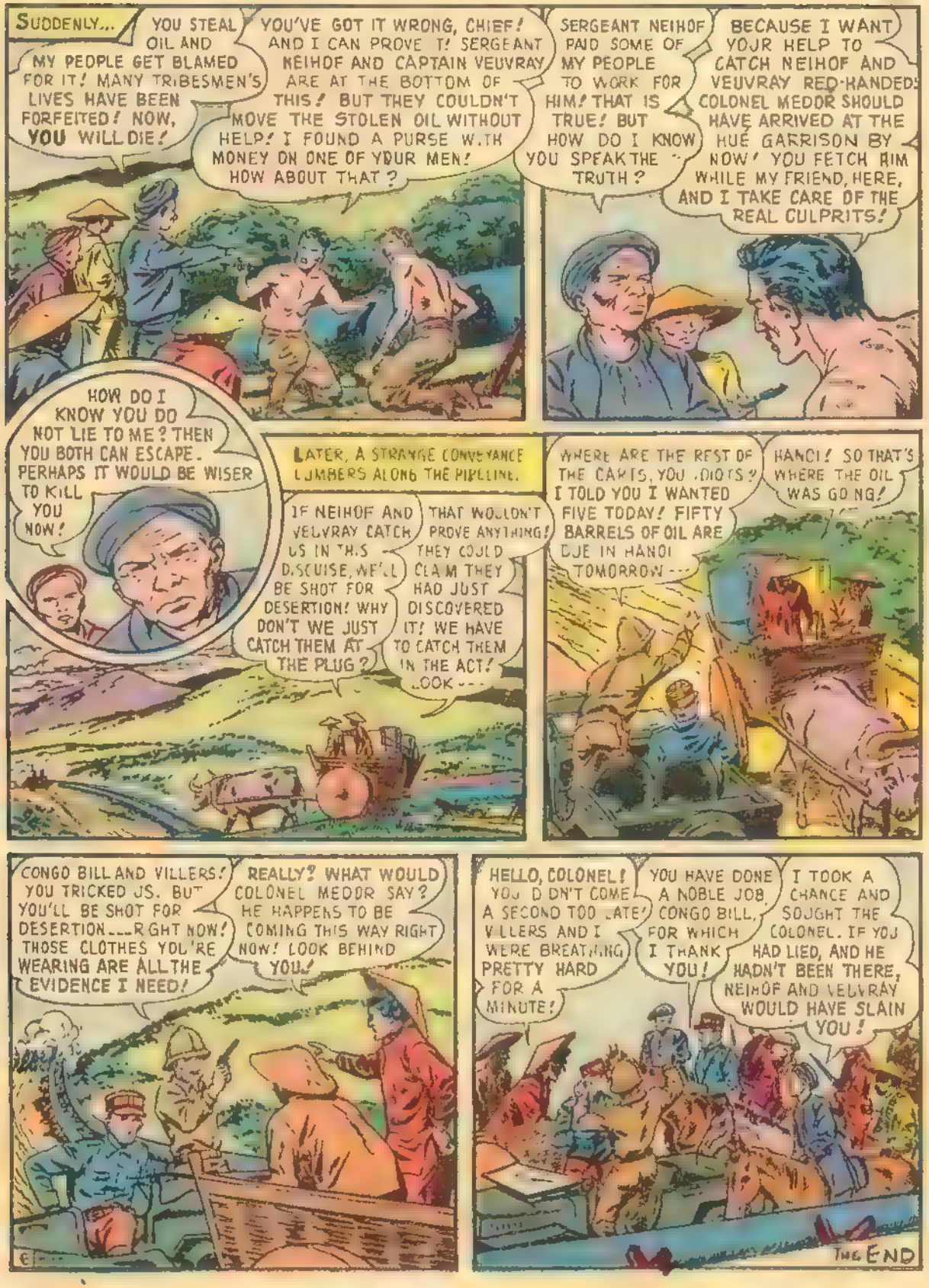

BOOM
WHEW! I HEARD THAT NOISE JUST IN TIME!


WH- WHAT HAPPENED?
NEIHOF BOOBY-TRAPPED THE JEEP WITH A GADGET HOOKED ONTO THE WATER GAUGE! HE FIGURED WE'D BE BLOWN TO BITS WHEN THE WATER TEMPERATURE ROSE! THE NAZIS USED TO PULL THAT STUNT DURING THE WAR!


THE SWINE! BUT WHAT DO WE DO NOW? THERE'S ONLY A SMALL NATIVE VILLAGE NEAR HERE AND IT'S MILES TO THE BOOSTER STATION!
GOOD! WE'LL THROW MOST OF OUR UNIFORMS INTO THIS BURNING MESS! THAT'LL MAKE NEIHOF THINK HIS PLAN WORKED! HE'S SURE TO COME THIS WAY TO VERIFY IT! MEANWHILE, WE'LL SEE WHAT INFORMATION WE CAN GET FROM THE VILLAGE NATIVES!

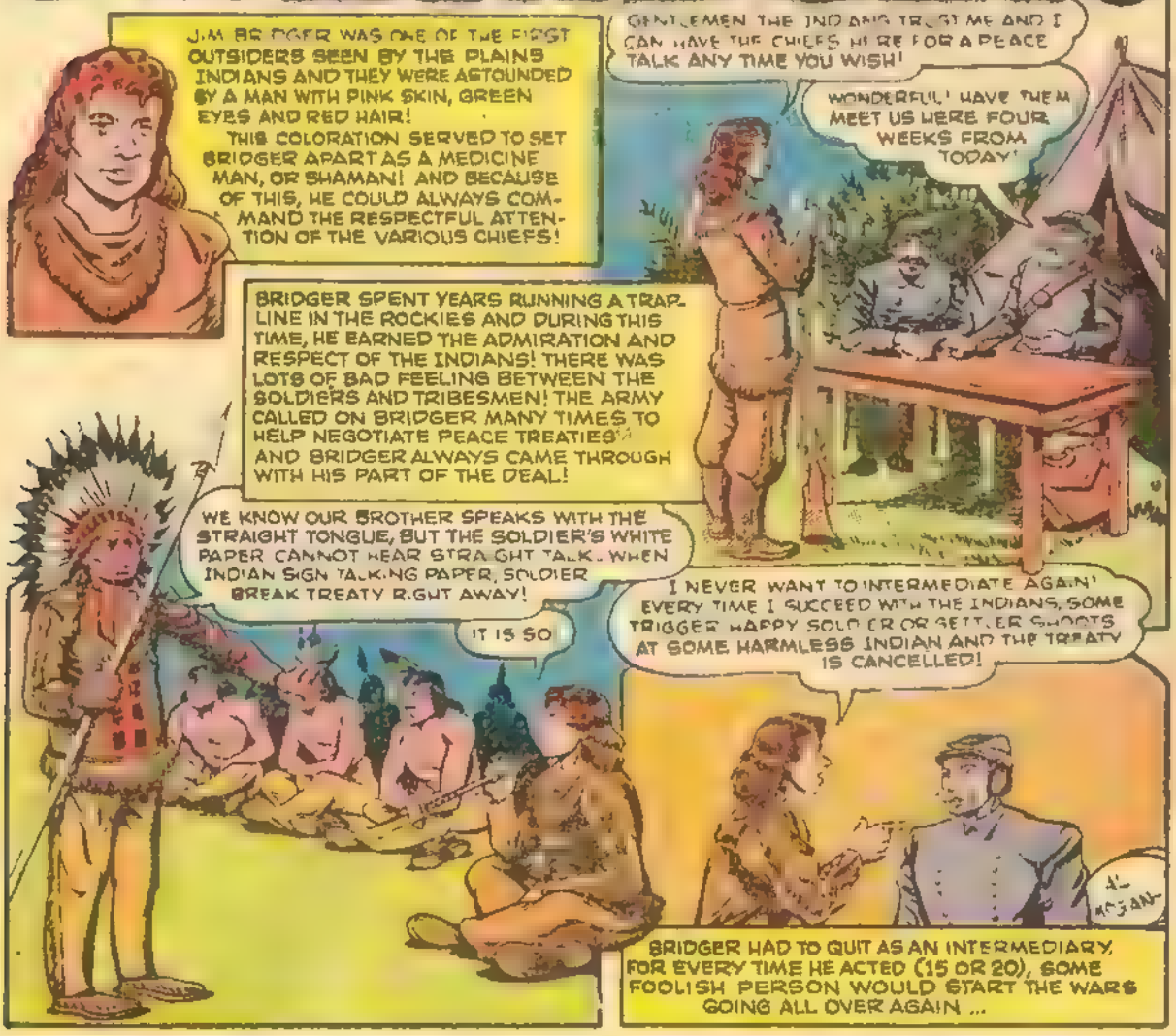

BUT AS THEY START OUT...
NEIHOF MAY GET HERE ANY MINUTE! LET'S GO--! OR DID YOU FIND SOMETHING?
THIS SOIL HAS THE SAME SMELL AS THE STUFF ON THE SHOE OF THE NATIVE NEIHOF KILLED! THAT NATIVE MUST'VE COME FROM THESE PARTS! THE OIL IS TAPPED HERE AND CARRIED INTO THE VILLAGE! LET'S INVESTIGATE THIS FURTHER!


LOOK AT THIS!.. A SMALL REMOVABLE PLUG! ONLY A PIPELINE MAN WOULD USE IT BECAUSE IT WOULDN'T AFFECT THE PRESSURE GAUGE AT THE BOOSTER STATION!
EXACTLY! BUT HOW DID HE MOVE THE STOLEN OIL? THAT'S WHAT WE MUST FIND OUT!

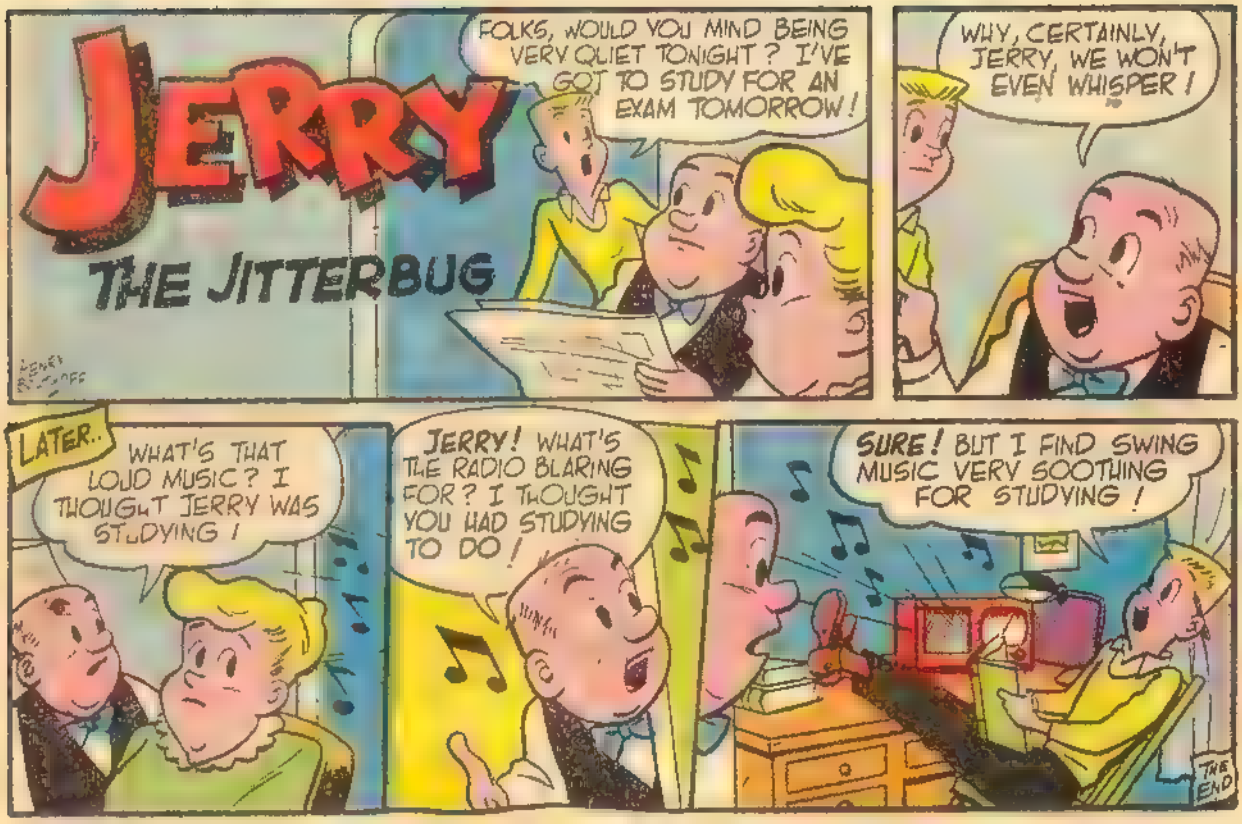

SUDDENLY...
YOU STEAL OIL AND MY PEOPLE GET BLAMED FOR IT! MANY TRIBESMEN'S LIVES HAVE BEEN FORFEITED! NOW, YOU WILL DIE!
YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG, CHIEF! AND I CAN PROVE IT! SERGEANT NEIHOF AND CAPTAIN VEUVRAY ARE AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS! BUT THEY COULDN'T MOVE THE STOLEN OIL WITHOUT HELP! I FOUND A PURSE WITH MONEY ON ONE OF YOUR MEN! HOW ABOUT THAT?
SERGEANT NEIHOF PAID SOME OF MY PEOPLE TO WORK FOR HIM! THAT IS TRUE! BUT HOW DO I KNOW YOU SPEAK THE TRUTH?
BECAUSE I WANT YOUR HELP TO CATCH NEIHOF AND VEUVRAY RED-HANDED! COLONEL MEDOR SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED AT THE HUE GARRISON BY NOW! YOU FETCH HIM WHILE MY FRIEND, HERE, AND I TAKE CARE OF THE REAL CULPRITS!
HOW DO I KNOW YOU DO NOT LIE TO ME? THEN YOU BOTH CAN ESCAPE. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE WISER TO KILL YOU NOW!
LATER, A STRANGE CONVEYANCE LUMBERS ALONG THE PIPELINE.
IF NEIHOF AND VEUVRAY CATCH US IN THIS DISGUISE, WE'LL BE SHOT FOR DESERTION! WHY DON'T WE JUST CATCH THEM AT THE PLUG?
THAT WOULDN'T PROVE ANYTHING! THEY COULD CLAIM THEY HAD JUST DISCOVERED IT! WE HAVE TO CATCH THEM IN THE ACT! LOOK---
WHERE ARE THE REST OF THE CARTS, YOU IDIOTS? I TOLD YOU I WANTED FIVE TODAY! FIFTY BARRELS OF OIL ARE DUE IN HANOI TOMORROW---
HANOI! SO THAT'S WHERE THE OIL WAS GOING!
CONGO BILL AND VILLERS! YOU TRICKED US. BUT YOU'LL BE SHOT FOR DESERTION---RIGHT NOW! THOSE CLOTHES YOU'RE WEARING ARE ALL THE EVIDENCE I NEED!
REALLY? WHAT WOULD COLONEL MEDOR SAY? HE HAPPENS TO BE COMING THIS WAY RIGHT NOW! LOOK BEHIND YOU!
HELLO, COLONEL! YOU DIDN'T COME A SECOND TOO LATE! VILLERS AND I WERE BREATHING PRETTY HARD FOR A MINUTE!
YOU HAVE DONE A NOBLE JOB, CONGO BILL, FOR WHICH I THANK YOU!
I TOOK A CHANCE AND SOUGHT THE COLONEL. IF YOU HAD LIED, AND HE HADN'T BEEN THERE, NEIHOF AND VEUVRAY WOULD HAVE SLAIN YOU!
THE END

Jim BRIDGER

1804-1881



ADVERTISEMENT



Editorial Advisory Board

DR. LAURETTA BENDER
Associate Professor of Psychiatry
School of Medicine, New York University

JOSETTE FRANK
Consultant on Children's Reading,
Child Study Association of America

Dr. W. W. D. SONES
Professor of Education and
Director of Curriculum Study,
University of Pittsburgh

Dr. S. HARCOURT PEPPARD
Director, Essex County Juvenile Clinic,
Newark, N. J.

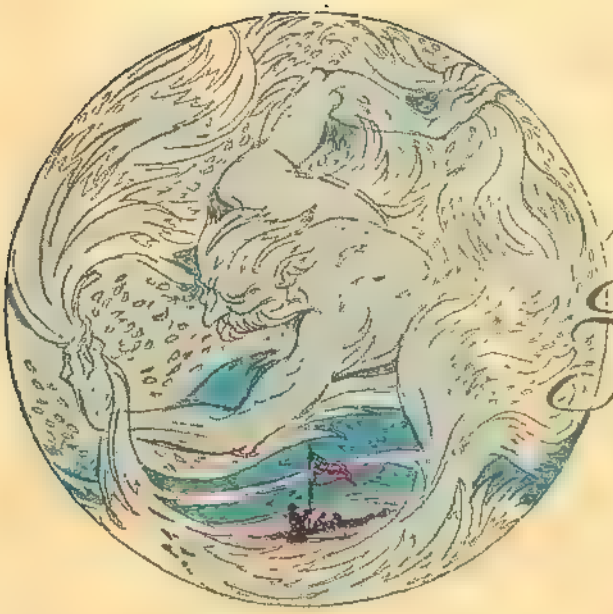
SUPERMAN · DC · NATIONAL COMICS

The following magazines all bear this trademark as your guarantee of the best in comics reading:

ACTION COMICS
ADVENTURE COMICS
ALL-AMERICAN WESTERN
ALL STAR WESTERN
ANIMAL ANTICS
BATMAN
BIG TOWN
BOB HOPE
BUZZY
COMIC CAVALCADE
DALE EVANS
A DATE WITH JUDY
DETECTIVE COMICS
FUNNY FOLKS
FUNNY STUFF
GANG BUSTERS
JIMMY WAKELY
LEADING COMICS
LEAVE IT TO BINKY
MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY
MUTT & JEFF
MYSTERY IN SPACE
PETER PORKCHOPS
REAL SCREEN COMICS
SENSATION COMICS
STAR SPANGLED COMICS
STRANGE ADVENTURES
SUPERBOY
SUPERMAN
TOMAHAWK
WESTERN COMICS
WONDER WOMAN
WORLD'S FINEST COMICS

VARSITY VIC
HENRY BOLTINOFF
BUT MOM, - PLEASE!
NO BUTS - YOU TAKE IT BACK TO MRS. ALLEN FOR ME!
IMAGINE - WALKING THROUGH THE STREETS WITH THIS!
HI, VIC, WHO'S THE GIRL FRIEND? HA-HA!
GULP
ASK HER IF SHE'S GOT A FRIEND FOR ME, VIC?
IT'S TWO MILES LONGER THIS WAY - BUT AT LEAST NO ONE WILL SEE ME!

HERE AT LAST !
R-RING
WHY VIC, YOUR MOTHER MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN - I TOLD HER SHE CAN KEEP IT. SO YOU BRING IT RIGHT BACK !
H'YA, JERRY !
ULP !
WHY, IT'S STARTING TO RAIN ! YOU JUST LEAVE IT HERE, I'LL HAVE MY ALFRED BRING IT OVER TO YOUR HOUSE !
OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING !
THE END



The TOP of The WORLD

EVER since man has started believing that the world is round, he has been intrigued by the idea of seeing the top of it. But it was not until less than 50 years ago that a human being actually set foot upon the North Pole.

In the intervening centuries, exploration after exploration had been sent northward, first to find the fabled Northwest Passage, and later to discover the Pole itself.

Earliest of these explorers were the Cabots, who sailed far up the Laborador coast to search for the Passage. They were followed by Henry Hudson, who explored a great northern icepack and penetrated farther north than men had ever reached before.

The two centuries after him produced few results, and it was not until about 1820 that Arctic exploration began in earnest. Numerous expeditions added immeasurably to knowledge of the north and how to live in the intense cold and move over the treacherous pack ice.

After a few minor exploratory parties, the three most modern groups attacked the northland. First, Nansen deliberately sailed his ship into the pack ice, waited until it was frozen in. Then he set out by sledge and reached a point only 240 miles from the Pole when he was forced to return.

Then, the Italian Duke of Abruzzi, in 1899, with a party of men reached a point only 220 miles from the Pole, when diminishing supplies forced them to turn back.

During all these expeditions, an American, Robert Edwin Peary, had been busy gaining experience in the far North. To reach the North Pole was the goal of his life—a goal he had conceived in 1886 during an observation trip along the coast of Greenland while in the U. S. Navy. From that time on, he succumbed to the lure of the Arctic and spent the next 20 years in the north or in preparation to go there.

He returned to Greenland in 1891 as the head of an expedition sent out by the Philadelphia Academy to spend his first winter in the Arctic. The following spring, he accomplished a remarkable sledge journey of 1200 miles forth and back across the mountains and ice-caps of northern Greenland. In doing so, he reached the northeast coast of the island, thereby proving that it was not a continent extending to the Pole, as some had believed.

In 1893, he undertook a two-year expedition to Greenland. Although he did not travel as extensively as before, he did gather much valuable scientific data and—most important of all— he gained the confidence and affection of the Eskimos of Etah, prob-

ably the most northerly dwelling people in the world.

In 1896 and again in 1897, Peary made summer voyages to the Arctic. The following year, he headed an expedition which stayed in the north for four years, during which time he discovered what is probably the most northerly point of land in the world. This he named Cape Morris K. Jesup, after the man who had chiefly financed his trips.

By now, Peary was recognized as the foremost Arctic authority in the world, and he determined to try to reach the Pole itself. He set out in 1905 in the *Roosevelt*, a ship specially built for resisting pressure when caught among the icefloes. After picking up Eskimos and dogs at Etah, he continued northward until the *Roosevelt* was frozen in. From here, he set out on foot and dog-sledge, but due to unforeseen difficulties, he was forced to turn back when only about 180 miles from the Pole.

Three years later, Peary was ready for another assault on the top of the world. Once more, the *Roosevelt* steamed north to Etah, taking aboard Eskimos and dogs; once more she buffetted her way northward until frozen into the ice. Then, during the long, dark Arctic winter, supplies were ferried from the ship to Cape Columbia, the take-off point for the expedition.

On February 28, 1909 the heroic "dash for the Pole" began. The plan was to send out several parties in advance of Peary's in order to break a trail over the ice and to set up caches of supplies so that Peary would not have too much to carry. As each party reached a specified point, it would deposit its food and return. In Peary's section—the only one that would actually reach the Pole—were himself, Matthew Henson, his attendant; and four Eskimo drivers.

The going was very tough. The light reflected 24 hours a day off the expanse of snow and ice nearly blinded the explorers. Wide "leads" of open water blocked the route over the pack ice on which the sledges rode, forcing a halt until the water froze over. Pressure ridges—walls of ice 50 feet high and ten feet thick—slowed the traveling and caused smashed sledges. Thin and shifting ice caused the drownings of several men and dog-teams.

But in spite of all dangers, Peary was only three miles from the Pole, in latitude 89°57′ North, when he took an observation on April 6, 1909. After a short rest, he made several additional observations, planted an American flag and a note to future explorers, and then crossed and recrossed a triangular area extending about ten miles on all sides of the Pole to make sure that he had stood over the spot where the Earth's axis intersects its surface.

Standing on the point, a man can look around him in any direction and he will only be looking toward the south. Walking around the spot, where all lines of longitude cross, a man would have to reset his watch with every step as he goes from time zone to time zone. Here the time from sunrise to sunrise is a year; a hundred such dawns mark a century. Any wind that blows over him will be a south wind. A man can be traveling northward, and as he crosses the Pole, he will start southward, without ever changing his direction.

And what is this mystic point like? Around it stretches an expanse of eternal snow and ice, broken only by floes, leads, and ridges. Through a crack in this ice, Peary sounded the ocean depths below him. The line sank almost two miles and found no bottom.

That is the answer to the riddle of the centures. Above the top of the world stands no summit, no land, but only a frozen ocean. . . .

The next day, Peary started a rapid and uneventful trip back. It was from Battle Harbor in Labrador that he telegraphed his now famous "Stars and Stripes nailed to North Pole" to tell the world that the goal of the ages had been reached.

—David Kahn

VIGILANTE
WHO TURNS CROOKS GREEN WITH ENVY... GIVES HONEST FOLKS THE BLUES... LEAVES POLICEMEN WHITE WITH RAGE... AND MAKES THE VIGILANTE'S FACE RED? NOBODY BUT THE RAINBOW MAN--WHOSE CRIMES ARE SPLASHES OF VIVID COLOR THAT MERGE INTO SINISTER MASTER-PIECES!... ONCE AGAIN, AS A GAUDY PATTERN OF VILLAINY TAKES SHAPE, THE LAWMAN FROM THE LAND OF THE PURPLE SAGE OUTSTRIPS AN OUTLAW ARTIST'S MAD IMAGINATION, SEEKING CLUES IN HUES TO SOLVE--
"The RIDDLE OF THE RAINBOW MAN!"
PURPLE
RED

MIDNIGHT--AND A SPECTACULAR RADIANCE SPLASHES THE SKY OVER THE WESTERN CITY OF REDWOOD...

THE RAINBOW MAN, SINISTER SCOUNDREL OF THE SPECTRUM, IS ABOUT TO SPIN HIS COLOR WHEEL OF CRIME...

ALL RIGHT, DICTIONARY--LET'S SEE WHAT COLOR OF THE RAINBOW WILL INSPIRE MY NEXT CRIME CAMPAIGN!

I SHALL ROTATE THE FILTER DISC THUSLY!

BUT AS SHAKES, THE UNDERWORLD POET, RHYMES RAPTUROUSLY, WITH GESTURES...

THE COLOR WHEEL OF CRIME IS SPUN TO CHOOSE THE HUES FOR-- OOPS! MY GUN!

GREAT CAESAR--YOU'VE FRAGMENTIZED THE REFRACTIONS!

ABRUPTLY, THE DESIGN IN THE SKY FREEZES IN A GLITTERING JUMBLE OF COLORS...

ALAS, ALACK! WHAT'S THIS, I SPY? A PATCH-WORK QUILT ACROSS THE SKY!

FOILED BY A KALEIDOSCOPIC CHAOS!

FOILED, NOTHING! IT'S INSPIRED MY GREATEST MASTERPIECE!

NOT ONE BUT **SEVEN** CRIMES, SHALL MATCH THIS MIXTURE! I'LL COMMIT SEVEN JOBS, EACH INVOLVING A DIFFERENT COLOR, AND NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO GUESS **WHY!**

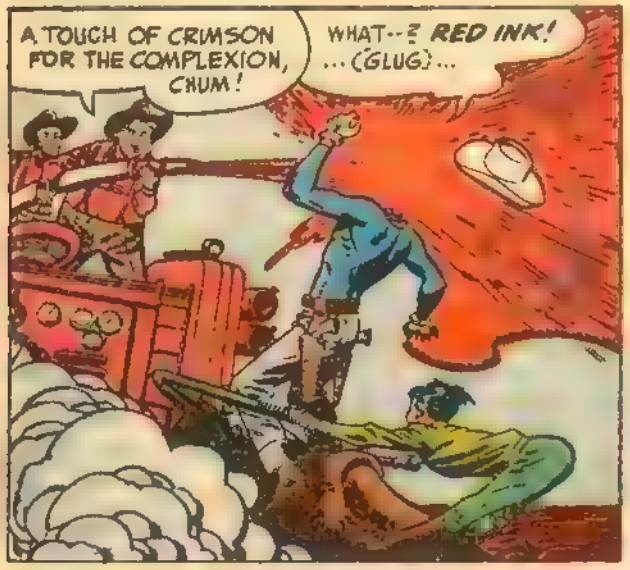
KEEP THE CLUES OBSCURE AND SCANTY, IF YOU'D FOOL THE VIGILANTE!

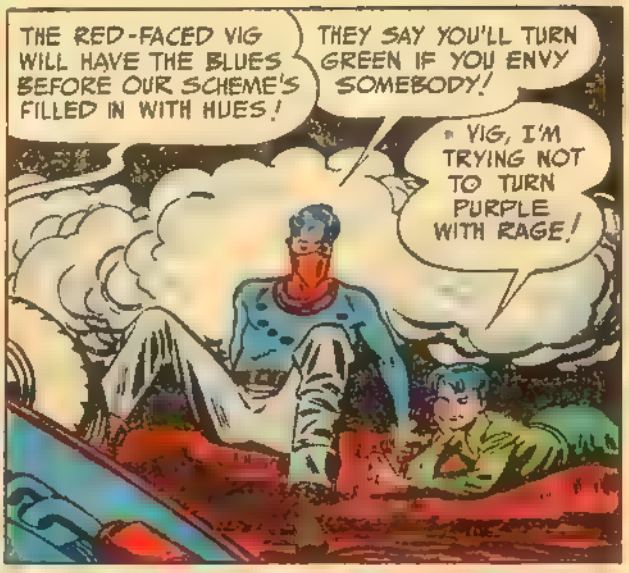
THE *VIGILANTE?* AT THIS VERY MOMENT, HE IS EYEING THE FIRST CLUE...

IT LOOKS LIKE A BUSTED RAINBOW IN A BUSHEL BASKET, VIG!

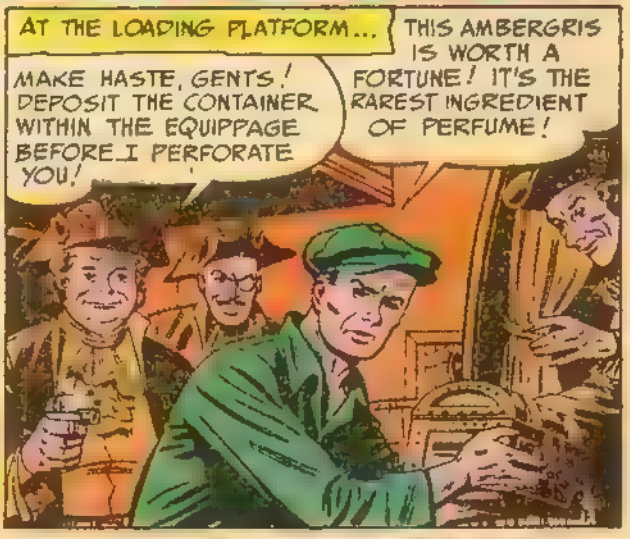
PROBABLY A SEARCHLIGHT WITH A CRACKED LENS, STUFF! BUT SPEAKING OF RAINBOWS-- WONDER WHAT EVER BECAME OF THE RAINBOW MAN?

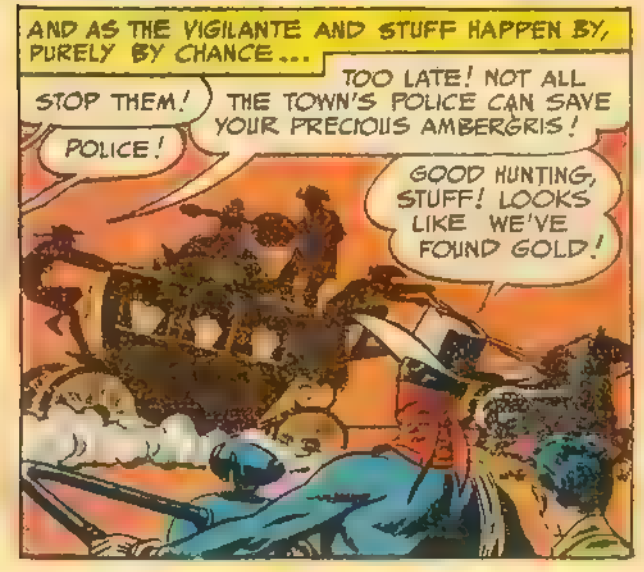
THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, REDWOOD'S SOCIAL SET PARADES AT THE ANNUAL CHARITY BAZAAR...
MAGGIE RUST LOOKS LIKE A FOREST FIRE IN HER EXPENSIVE RUBIES! IF SHE'S SO KEEN ON CHARITY, WHY DON'T SHE--?
HUSH UP, PA! DON'T SHOW YOUR IGNORANCE!
AND AS A LURID GLARE EXPANDS, SEEMING QUITE BY ACCIDENT TO ILLUSTRATE A SONG BY GREG SANDERS, THE PRAIRIE TROUBADOUR...
'WHEN THE WESTERN SUN SINKS LOW, AND THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD'S AGLOW...
LOOKS LIKE A HOUSE IS BURNING -- AND DOGGONED IF I DON'T HEAR FIRE-ENGINE BELLS!
CLANG CLANG
SUDDENLY
HELP! SAVE ME! MY RUBIES!
I'LL GUARD THESE GEMS OF FROZEN FLAME MORE TENDERLY THAN ANY DAME!
CLANG CLANG
MY CRIME IN RED PAYS OFF! HA, HA, HA!
THE RAINBOW MAN! HE'S STRUCK AGAIN!
QUIT TALKING LIKE SNAKES! GOSH SAKES -- IT TAKES -- GREAT SNAKES! I'M DOING IT, TOO! COME ON -- YOU NEED WHAT WE HID UNDER THE PLATFORM!
OUT OF SIGHT, THE COWBOY CROONER SWIFTLY SHUCKS HIS DUDE OUTFIT...
RED SIGNAL FLARES -- RED SEARCHLIGHTS -- AND A RED FIRE ENGINE! LAST NIGHT, I WONDERED ABOUT THE RAINBOW MAN, AND NOW I'VE FOUND HIM!
NOT UNLESS YOU HOP ON THIS GAS-EATING BRONC AND START RIDING! THAT FIRE TRUCK IS LIGHTING OUT!
NEXT INSTANT, A DRAMATIC FIGURE ROCKETS INTO COLORFUL ACTION -- THE VIGILANTE!
TIME YOU HOMBRES CHANGED YOUR RED SHIRTS FOR ZEBRA STRIPES!
I PERCEIVE AN INCENDIARY GLINT IN THE VIG'S OPTIC! PERCHANCE I CAN EXTINGUISH IT!
3

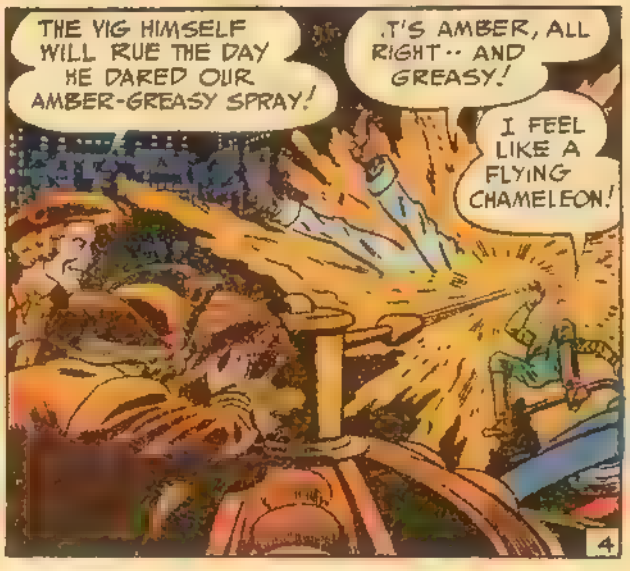

A TOUCH OF CRIMSON FOR THE COMPLEXION, CHUM!
WHAT--? RED INK! ...(GLUG)...


THE RED-FACED VIG WILL HAVE THE BLUES BEFORE OUR SCHEME'S FILLED IN WITH HUES!
THEY SAY YOU'LL TURN GREEN IF YOU ENVY SOMEBODY!
VIG, I'M TRYING NOT TO TURN PURPLE WITH RAGE!

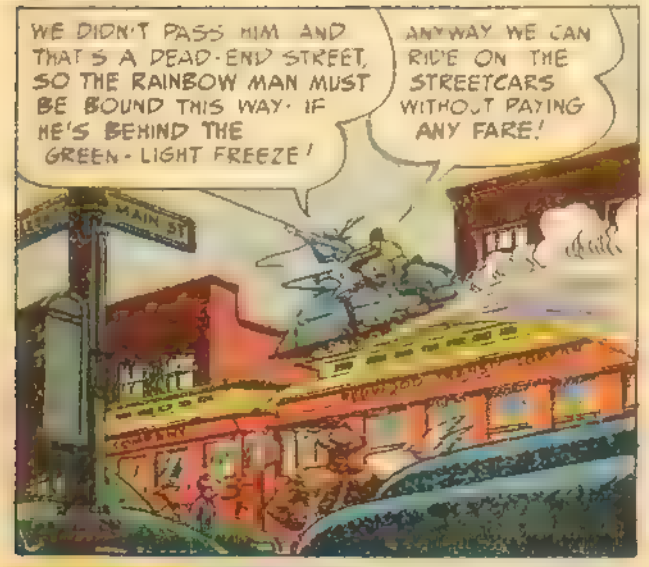
WHAT WILL BE THE NEXT STEP IN THE RAINBOW MAN'S SECRET CRIME PATTERN? NEXT DAY, AT THE CROWN PERFUME FACTORY...
CLEVER ADVERTISING STUNT, MR. CROWN!
YES--EXCEPT I'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE! MAYBE SOMEONE WANTS TO SELL IT TO ME!
CROWN PERFUME CO.
GOLDEN CROWN PERFUME


AT THE LOADING PLATFORM...
MAKE HASTE, GENTS! DEPOSIT THE CONTAINER WITHIN THE EQUIPPAGE BEFORE I PERFORATE YOU!
THIS AMBERGRIS IS WORTH A FORTUNE! IT'S THE RAREST INGREDIENT OF PERFUME!


AND AS THE VIGILANTE AND STUFF HAPPEN BY, PURELY BY CHANCE...
STOP THEM!
POLICE!
TOO LATE! NOT ALL THE TOWN'S POLICE CAN SAVE YOUR PRECIOUS AMBERGRIS!
GOOD HUNTING, STUFF! LOOKS LIKE WE'VE FOUND GOLD!

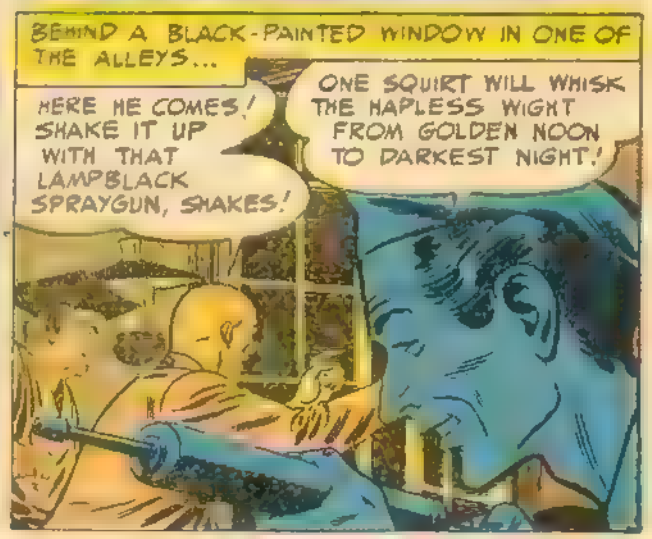

THE VIG HIMSELF WILL RUE THE DAY HE DARED OUR AMBER-GREASY SPRAY!
IT'S AMBER, ALL RIGHT-- AND GREASY!
I FEEL LIKE A FLYING CHAMELEON!

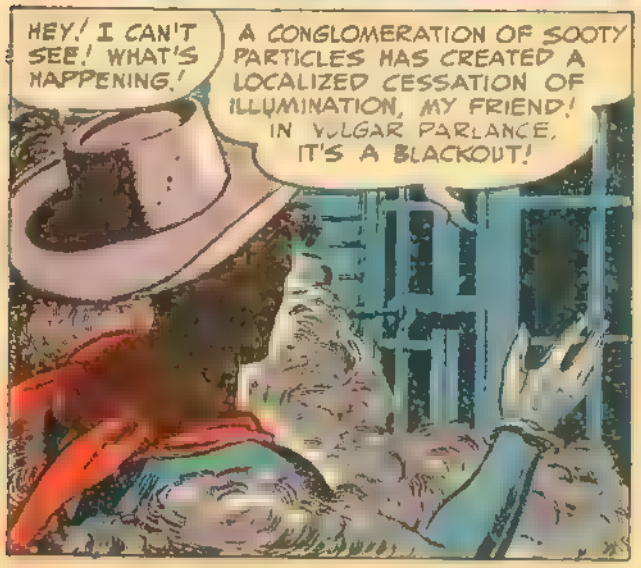
BAFFLED BY THE RAINBOW MAN'S MASTER PLAN, THE VIGILANTE IS NOWHERE NEAR THE EXCLUSIVE BLUE MOON CLUB THAT MIDNIGHT...
BLUE LIGHTS. BLUE MUSIC... THE WORLD'S FINEST STAR SAPPHIRES SPARKLING... AND MY INDIGO SLEEP FOG SEEPING THROUGH THE VENTILATORS!
SO LOWESOME AND UNHAPPY I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
THE FILTERS IN OUR NOSTRILS ARE CERTAINLY FORTUITOUS!
BEAUTIFUL Blue Star CELEBRATED SAPPHIRE SINGER!
AS A PURPLISH HAZE MUFFLES THE STRANGE SCENE
STEALING -- MY SAPPHIRES! BUT I'M TOO SLEEPY -- TO CARE!
WE PILFER THESE FOR ART'S SWEET SAKE -- YOU'LL SING MUCH BLUER WHEN YOU AWAKE!
SUBSIDE SON
BUT IN THE MORNING...
AT LEAST, THE RAINBOW MAN NEVER REPEATS HIMSELF! THE MORE COLORS HE USES, THE FEWER WE'LL WORRY ABOUT! WE'LL LOOK FOR BLACK, WHITE, ORANGE, GREEN
RED -- YELLOW -- BLUE! THAT'S NO PATTERN -- IT'S A MESS!
RAINBOW MAN HITS BLUE NOTE TO NAB SINGER'S SAPPHIRES!
GREEN IT IS! AN HOUR LATER, AT THE MUSEUM OF ART...
NO ONE TOLD US THE MUSEUM WAS TO BE PAINTED! YOU MUST BE -- UGH!
NOT THE MUSEUM, CHUMPS -- YOU! GRAB THOSE GREEN JADE PIECES, BOYS!
SET THE MASTER SWITCH FOR STEADY GREEN, DICTIONARY! SECONDS FROM NOW, TRAFFIC WILL BE SO SNARLED, NOBODY CAN FOLLOW US!
PROVIDING WE PROCEED WITH ALACRITY TO AVOID OUR OWN SNARE!
MOMENTS LATER, TWO BLOCKS AWAY...
OH, OH! THE LIGHTS ARE STUCK ON GREEN!
GREEN! THAT'S ON OUR LIST! HANG ON, STUFF -- WE'RE TAKING THE HURDLES!
HONK HONK HONK HONK HONK
5

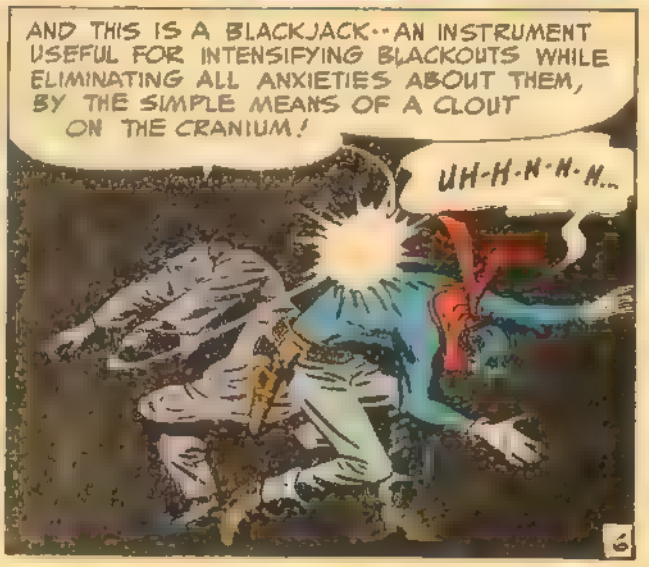

WE DIDN'T PASS HIM AND THAT'S A DEAD-END STREET, SO THE RAINBOW MAN MUST BE BOUND THIS WAY. IF HE'S BEHIND THE GREEN-LIGHT FREEZE!
ANYWAY WE CAN RIDE ON THE STREETCARS WITHOUT PAYING ANY FARE!
MAIN ST

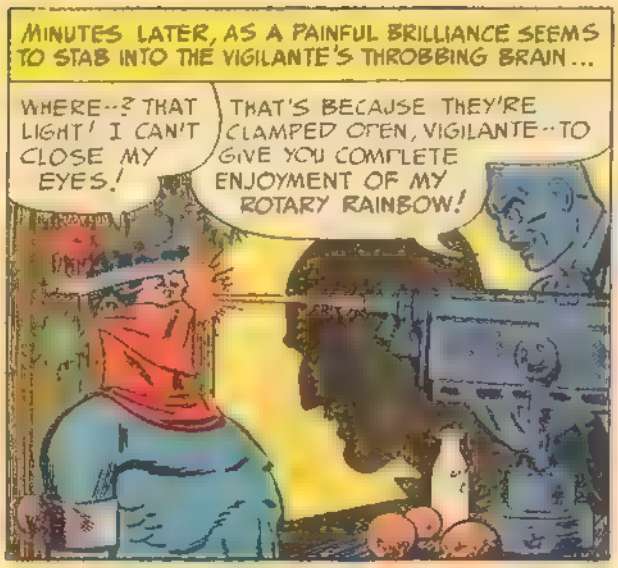
NO GREENHORN IS THE VALIANT VIG WHO NOW PURSUES US O'ER THE BRIDGE!
HE TO THE HIDEOUT! ONLY BY PERMITTING OUR NEMESIS TO FIND US CAN WE LOSE HIM!

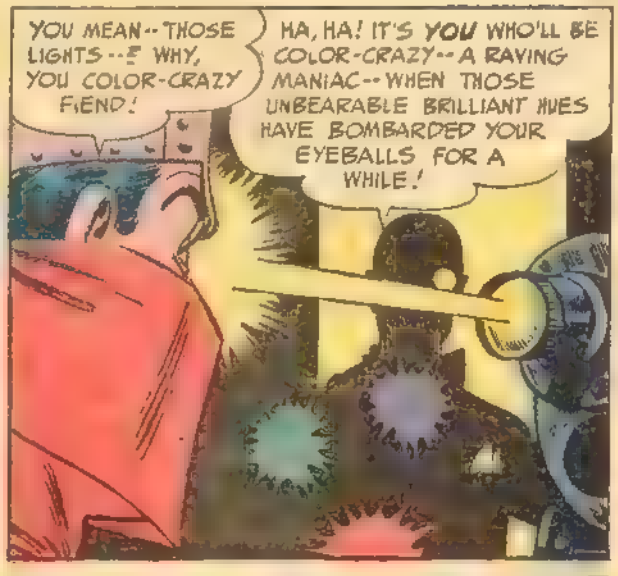
PRESENTLY...
THEY'RE SOMEWHERE IN THIS BLOCK, VIG! THE STREET ENDS AT THE RIVER, AND THOSE ARE BLIND ALLEYS! FINDING THEM SHOULD BE EASY!
TOO EASY, MAYBE! WAIT HERE WHILE I SCOUT AROUND!

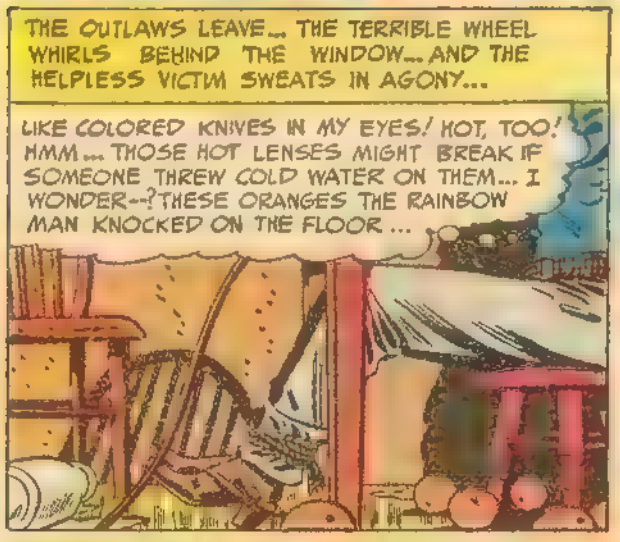

BEHIND A BLACK-PAINTED WINDOW IN ONE OF THE ALLEYS...
HERE HE COMES! SHAKE IT UP WITH THAT LAMPBLACK SPRAYGUN, SHAKES!
ONE SQUIRT WILL WHISK THE HAPLESS WIGHT FROM GOLDEN NOON TO DARKEST NIGHT!

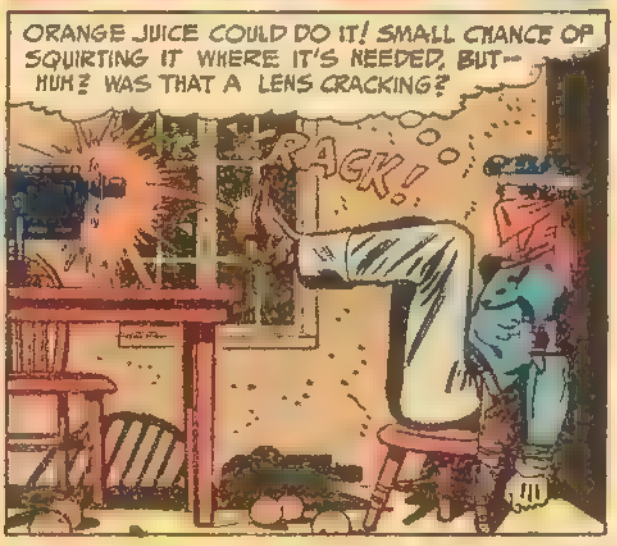

HEY! I CAN'T SEE! WHAT'S HAPPENING!
A CONGLOMERATION OF SOOTY PARTICLES HAS CREATED A LOCALIZED CESSATION OF ILLUMINATION, MY FRIEND! IN VULGAR PARLANCE, IT'S A BLACKOUT!

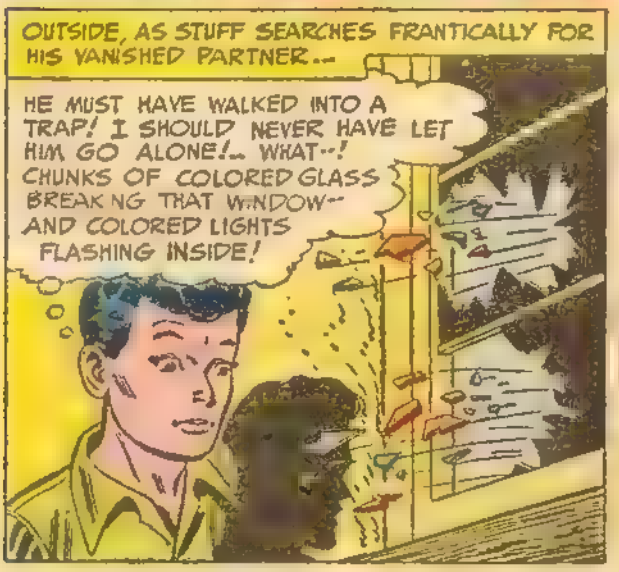

AND THIS IS A BLACKJACK--AN INSTRUMENT USEFUL FOR INTENSIFYING BLACKOUTS WHILE ELIMINATING ALL ANXIETIES ABOUT THEM, BY THE SIMPLE MEANS OF A CLOUT ON THE CRANIUM!
UH-H-H-H-H...

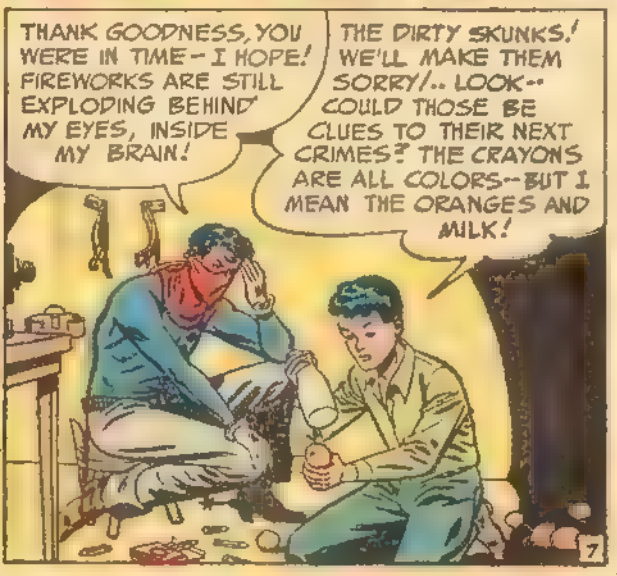

MINUTES LATER, AS A PAINFUL BRILLIANCE SEEMS TO STAB INTO THE VIGILANTE'S THROBBING BRAIN...
WHERE--? THAT LIGHT! I CAN'T CLOSE MY EYES!
THAT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE CLAMPED OPEN, VIGILANTE--TO GIVE YOU COMPLETE ENJOYMENT OF MY ROTARY RAINBOW!


YOU MEAN--THOSE LIGHTS--? WHY, YOU COLOR-CRAZY FIEND!
HA, HA! IT'S YOU WHO'LL BE COLOR-CRAZY--A RAVING MANIAC--WHEN THOSE UNBEARABLE BRILLIANT HUES HAVE BOMBARDED YOUR EYEBALLS FOR A WHILE!


THE OUTLAWS LEAVE... THE TERRIBLE WHEEL WHIRLS BEHIND THE WINDOW... AND THE HELPLESS VICTIM SWEATS IN AGONY...
LIKE COLORED KNIVES IN MY EYES! HOT, TOO! HMM... THOSE HOT LENSES MIGHT BREAK IF SOMEONE THREW COLD WATER ON THEM... I WONDER--? THESE ORANGES THE RAINBOW MAN KNOCKED ON THE FLOOR...


ORANGE JUICE COULD DO IT! SMALL CHANCE OF SQUIRTING IT WHERE IT'S NEEDED, BUT-- HUH? WAS THAT A LENS CRACKING?
CRACK!


OUTSIDE, AS STUFF SEARCHES FRANTICALLY FOR HIS VANISHED PARTNER...
HE MUST HAVE WALKED INTO A TRAP! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET HIM GO ALONE!... WHAT--! CHUNKS OF COLORED GLASS BREAKING THAT WINDOW-- AND COLORED LIGHTS FLASHING INSIDE!


THANK GOODNESS, YOU WERE IN TIME - I HOPE! FIREWORKS ARE STILL EXPLODING BEHIND MY EYES, INSIDE MY BRAIN!
THE DIRTY SKUNKS! WE'LL MAKE THEM SORRY!.. LOOK-- COULD THOSE BE CLUES TO THEIR NEXT CRIMES? THE CRAYONS ARE ALL COLORS--BUT I MEAN THE ORANGES AND MILK!

WHITE AND ORANGE? LET'S SEE IF THEY MAKE ANY SENSE IN CONNECTION WITH THE OTHER COLORS -- INCLUDING THE **BLACK** USED TO TRAP ME!.. DO THE INITIAL LETTERS **R-Y-B-G-B-W-O** MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

NO.. BUT HE COULD HAVE USED OTHER SHADES OF THOSE COLORS -- LIKE **GOLD** FOR **YELLOW** OR SAFFRON --

RED
YELLOW
BLUE
GREEN
BLACK
WHITE
ORANGE

OR **AMBER**, SINCE HE STOLE **AMBERGRIS!** AND FOR **BLUE**, WE'LL SUBSTITUTE -- HMM -- **INDIGO!** SWITCHING THE LAST TWO ITEMS, WE GET **R-A-I-G-B-O-W!**

RAINBOW -- ALMOST -- CHANGE THE **GREEN** USED IN SWIPING THE NILE JADE COLLECTION TO **NILE GREEN**, A POPULAR SHADE, AND WE CAN BOTH MOVE UP TO THE HEAD OF THE CLASS!

SO THE RAINBOW MAN'S DARING DESIGN -- SPELLING OUT HIS OWN NAME IN COLORS -- IS REVEALED AT LAST! BUT HOW AND WHEN WILL HE ATTEMPT TO COMPLETE IT WITH CRIMES IN ORANGE AND WHITE? ...

HERE ARE SOME CLIPPINGS -- BUT NOT ABOUT THE COLORS WE WANT!

LET ME SEE! "RARE PAINTINGS ON DISPLAY" -- "HEIRLOOM JEWELRY FIRM TO MOVE" -- "ORIENTAL GALLERY CLOSED FOR REDECORATION" -- IT'S PLAIN AS DAY! WE HAVEN'T A SECOND TO WASTE!

HALF AN HOUR LATER, AS AN ARMORED TRUCK LABORS UP A STEEP GRADE IN ORANGE STREET...

ORANGES -- TONS OF 'EM -- SPILLING THIS WAY! THEY'LL STALL US -- THROW US INTO A SKID! THAT CRAZY TRUCK DRIVER HAS NO BUSINESS IN THIS ONE-WAY STREET, ANYWAY!

I HOPE NOT! THINGS LIKE THIS WORRY ME WHEN WE'RE HAULING A FORTUNE IN OLD GOLD!

JUST AS I PLANNED! OUR STEEL RAM WILL SPLIT IT WIDE OPEN AND STUN THE GUARDS! WE'LL GET THE GOLD WITH NO TROUBLE AT ALL!

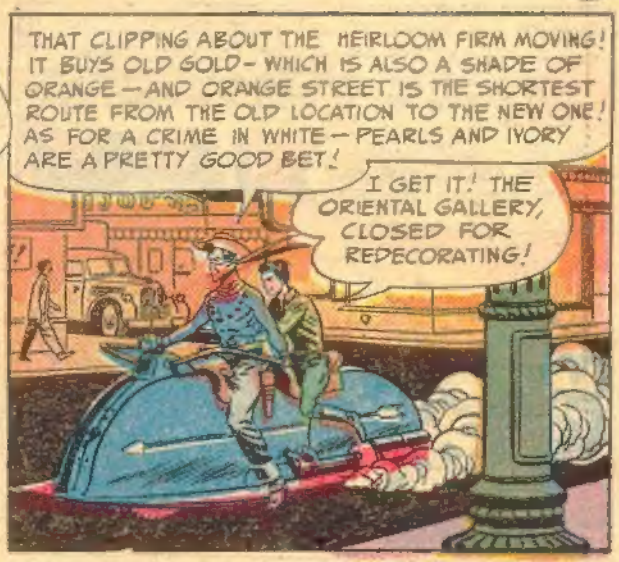
LET'S SEE... THIS WIRE IN MY RIGHT HAND OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK!

SUDDENLY, AS A MANHOLE COVER FLIES OPEN...

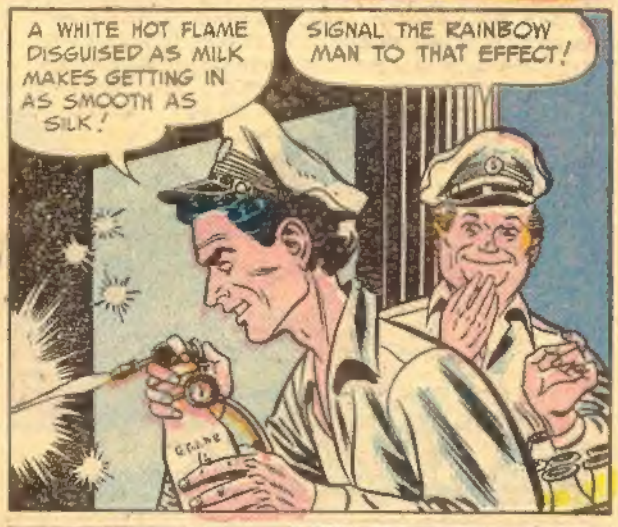
I NEVER SAW THAT OPEN MANHOLE! WE'RE STUCK BUT WE'LL GO ON TO OUR LAST AND BIGGEST COLOR CRIME! USE YOUR GAS CAPSULES TO INFLATE YOUR BALLOON SUITS, AND FOLLOW ME!

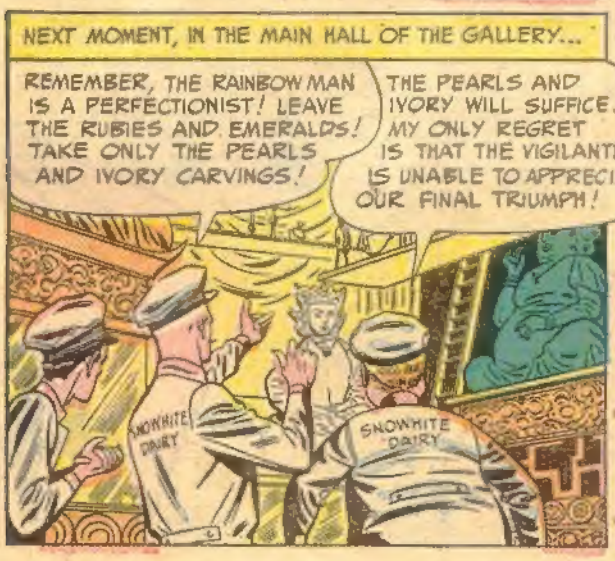
ONE ACCIDENT OFTEN PREVENTS A WORSE ONE! THAT ARMORED CAR IS SAFE!

WHILE THE RAINBOW MAN AND HIS HENCHMEN MAKE A SPECTACULAR GETAWAY...
BACK, STUFF! WE CAN'T CHASE THEM, SO WE'LL CONCENTRATE ON GIVING THEM A SURPRISE AT THEIR NEXT STOP!
SO YOU'VE GOT THAT ONE FIGURED OUT, TOO! WHAT PUT YOU WISE TO THIS CAPER, VIG?


THAT CLIPPING ABOUT THE HEIRLOOM FIRM MOVING! IT BUYS OLD GOLD - WHICH IS ALSO A SHADE OF ORANGE — AND ORANGE STREET IS THE SHORTEST ROUTE FROM THE OLD LOCATION TO THE NEW ONE! AS FOR A CRIME IN WHITE — PEARLS AND IVORY ARE A PRETTY GOOD BET!
I GET IT! THE ORIENTAL GALLERY, CLOSED FOR REDECORATING!

PRESENTLY, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY...
I'LL WAIT HERE, READY FOR A FAST GETAWAY WHILE YOU MAKE SURE WE CAN GET IN WITHOUT SETTING OFF AN ALARM!
THOSE MILKMEN MUST HAVE THE WRONG ADDRESS! OH, WELL, IT'S NO BUSINESS OF MINE!
SNOWWHITE DAIRY
SNOWWHITE DAIRY


A WHITE HOT FLAME DISGUISED AS MILK MAKES GETTING IN AS SMOOTH AS SILK!
SIGNAL THE RAINBOW MAN TO THAT EFFECT!


NEXT MOMENT, IN THE MAIN HALL OF THE GALLERY...
REMEMBER, THE RAINBOW MAN IS A PERFECTIONIST! LEAVE THE RUBIES AND EMERALDS! TAKE ONLY THE PEARLS AND IVORY CARVINGS!
THE PEARLS AND IVORY WILL SUFFICE! MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT THE VIGILANTE IS UNABLE TO APPRECIATE OUR FINAL TRIUMPH!
SNOWWHITE DAIRY
SNOWWHITE DAIRY

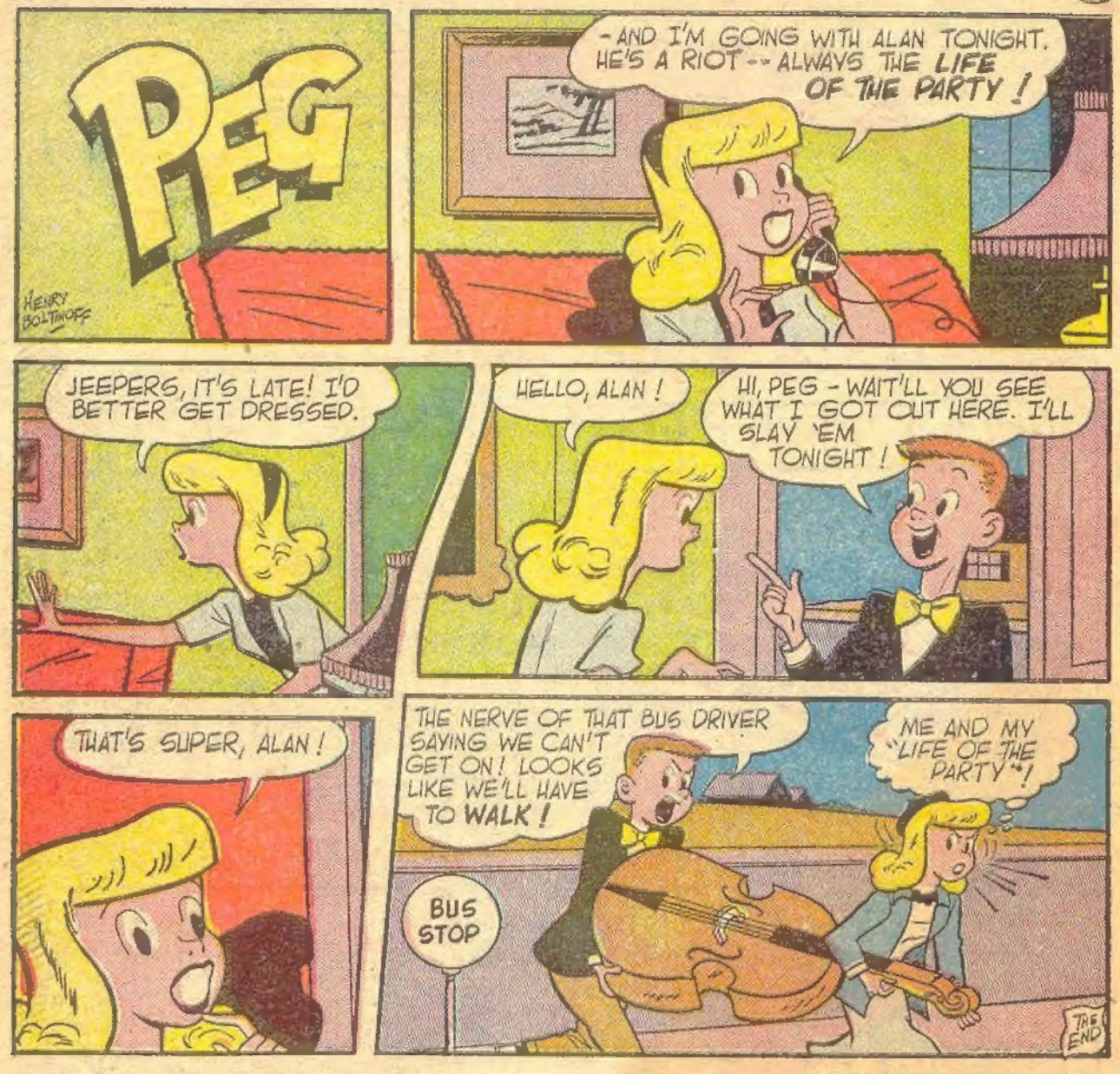
THE RAINBOW MAN HAS WON THE DAY AND AMPLIFIED HIS FAME WITH COLOR CRIMES BOTH GRIM AND GAY THAT ALSO SPELL HIS NAME!
MAKE UP ANOTHER VERSE TO IMMORTALIZE MY ARTISTIC TRIUMPH OVER THE VIGILANTE, SHAKES! POOR CHAP-- HE MUST HAVE GONE MAD LONG AGO!

ABRUPTLY...
DON'T STRAIN YOURSELF, SHAKES! STUFF AND I CAN DO OUR OWN RECITING -- AND TEACH YOU WHITE RATS A NEW WAY TO SPELL RAINBOW, TOO!
THE VIG -- LIBERATED! LET US ANNIHILATE HIM WITH PROMPTITUDE!
R'S FOR THE RECKONING, COMING UP NOW! A IS FOR ACHES YOU WILL SUFFER -- AND HOW!
I'S FOR INTELLIGENCE, THAT WHICH YOU LACK! N'S FOR YOUR NERVE, WHICH IS STARTING TO CRACK!
BAM
BAM
BAM
B IS A BUCKET OF BLUE FOR YOUR BRAIN, BULGING WITH BIG WORDS -- AND FEELING THE STRAIN!
O IS FOR OLIVE -- A HUE THAT'S LESS DRAB THAN THE ODOROUS ODES YOU UNCEASINGLY BLAB!
AS FOR THE W -- WHITEWASH SUPPLIES AN APPROPRIATE FINISH FOR THREE GAUDY GUYS!
SINCE ALL COLORS MINGLED TOGETHER MAKE WHITE, THE RAINBOW MAN'S END IS ARTISTICALLY RIGHT!
THUS BLEACHED, I'VE REACHED MY LOWEST POINT -- OUTGUESSED, OUTRHYMED AND OUT OF JOINT!
ONCE AGAIN I MUST SUFFER THE CRUDE UNDERWORLD VOCABULARY IN FASHION IN CRIMINOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS! THE PROSPECT LEAVES ME PALE!
VANDAL! DESTROYER OF CRIMINAL MASTERPIECES! I'LL RUN YOU RAGGED IN ALL THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW, VIG, WHEN I'M FREE AGAIN!
BE CAREFUL YOU DON'T TRIP OVER YOUR BEARD! BY THAT TIME IT'S APT TO BE LONG AND WHITE!
THE END

YOU'VE GOT A COMET BY THE TAIL

WHEN YOU ROCKET INTO THE UNKNOWN WITH EVERY ISSUE OF THE *TWO* MOST EXCITING SCIENCE-FICTION COMIC MAGAZINES PUBLISHED ON EARTH!

LOOK FOR THE FAMOUS DC - SUPERMAN SYMBOL — THE BRIGHTEST STAR IN THE COMICS FIRMAMENT!



SUPERMEN OF AMERICA

SUPERMAN'S SECRET MESSAGE

(Code Saturn No. 5)

BJJY HVIIZMN VMZ DH-KJMOVIO MZHZHWZM O-CZMZ DN VGRVTN ODHZ AJM XJPMOZNT.

SUPERMAN, MAT
c/o ACTION COMICS
480 LEXINGTON AVENUE, N. Y. C. 17, N. Y.

Dear Superman:

Please enroll me as a Member of the SUPERMEN of AMERICA. I enclose 10c to cover cost of mailing. It is understood that I am to receive my Membership Certificate, Emblem and Superman Code.

NAME..... AGE.....

STREET ADDRESS.....

CITY..... ZONE..... STATE.....